

*We Wait
and
Act
for
Peace*



www.parkwayucc.org

December 10, 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 Barb Harris

Flowers today given by Pat and Bill Owens in celebration of their 59th Wedding Anniversary.

Please consider signing up to donate flowers and/or read scripture 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

Anniversaries

12/12 OWENS, Bill & Pat (59)

Birthdays

12/10 SINGER, Michelle
12/11 FAGERBERG, Roger
12/12 OWENS, Bill
12/13 YAKEL, Amy
12/14 WAITE, Henry
12/15 ROGERS, Mike

2nd Sunday of Advent: *Peace*

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

Welcome Let us know you are here!

Meditation *When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace.* ~Jimi Hendrix

Passing the Peace of Christ

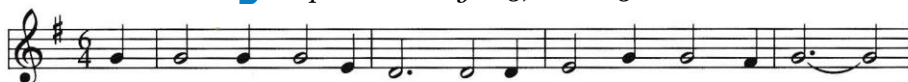
“May the peace of Christ be with you.”

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

Prelude *Milwaukee*—arr. Albert Beck, from the hymn tune by August Lemke (1820-1913), sometimes sung as *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Welcome Song *Prepare the Way* #13, v1 and 3



1. Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, Your Christ is draw - ing near!
2. Christ brings God's rule, O Zi - on; He comes from heaven a - bove.
3. Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; Your Sav - ior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley A lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, And jus - tice, truth, and love.
And tid - ings of sal - va - tion Pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, For grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow re - joic - ing, Their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.

Refrain



O blest is Christ that came In God's most ho - ly name.

*Call to Worship

One: Advent is a time to wait.

Many: **We wait for the dawning light, trusting that it comes every day. It is the way God created it to be.**

One: Advent is a time for freedom from captivity.

Many: We wait and we work—for everyone wants and needs to be free.

One: Advent is a time to wait for comfort in our sorrow.

Many: We wait and we work – coming alongside one another so no one is alone.

One: Advent is a time to wait for power in our weakness.

Many: We wait and we work— exercising our voice, our advocacy, our strengths.

One: Advent is a time to wait for the end of darkness.

Many: We wait and we work—for our light is needed now.

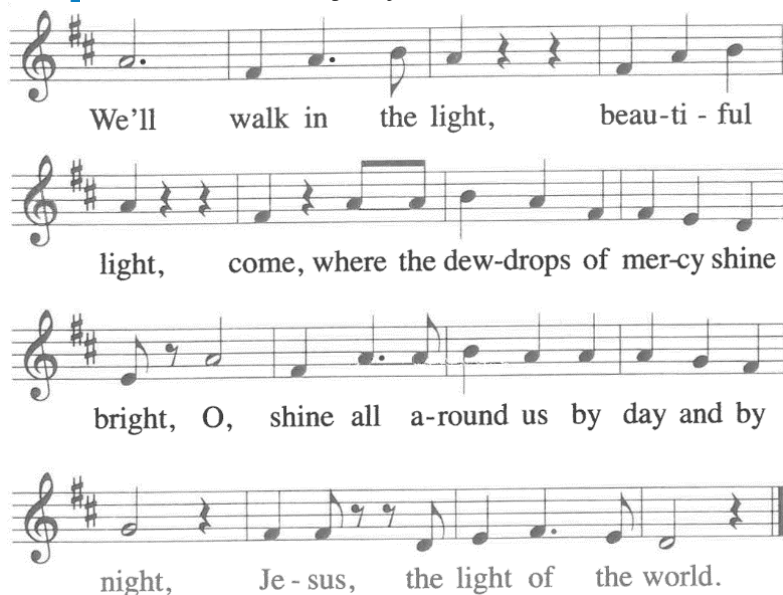
All: Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.

Advent Candle Lighting ~ Peace

Prayer at the Wreath

Holy One, we wait expectantly, trusting that you are present, active and constantly at work. As we light the first and second Advent candles, we ask for a deeper faith and the ability to watch and wait for you ~ and to be ready to put our commitments into action at any moment. We become hope rooted in your hope, peace rooted in your peace. Amen.

Response *Jesus, the Light of the World*



Scripture Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 (CEB - Common English Bible)

Comfort, comfort my people! says your God. Speak compassionately to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her compulsory service has ended,

that her penalty has been paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins!

A voice is crying out: "Clear the Lord's way in the desert! Make a level highway in the wilderness for our God! Every valley will be raised up, and every mountain and hill will be flattened. Uneven ground will become level, and rough terrain a valley plain. The Lord's glory will appear, and all humanity will see it together; the Lord's mouth has commanded it."

Go up on a high mountain, messenger Zion! Raise your voice and shout, messenger Jerusalem! Raise it; don't be afraid; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" Here is the Lord God, coming with strength, with a triumphant arm, bringing reward and payment. Like a shepherd, God will tend the flock; God will gather lambs in God's arms and lift them onto their lap. God will gently guide the nursing ewes.

***Song** *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates #8*

1. Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates, Be - hold, the
2. Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make it a
3. Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide My heart to

King of glo - ry waits; The King of kings is
tem - ple, set a - part From earth - ly use for
Thee; here, Lord, a - bide. Let me Thy in - ner

draw - ing near; The Sav - ior of the world is here!
heaven's em - ploy, A - dorned with prayer, and love, and joy.
pres - ence feel; Thy grace and love in me re - veal.

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.

Blessing the Children *Be Near Me, Lord Jesus*

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
And teach us, dear Jesus, to laugh and to share.**

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 Anthem

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



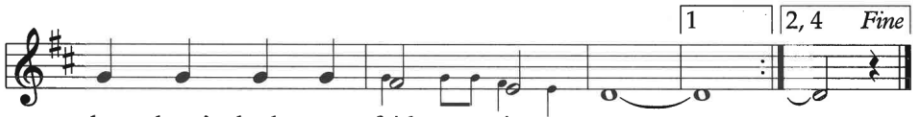
1. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. _____ Where
 2. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. _____ Where
 4. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. _____ It



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



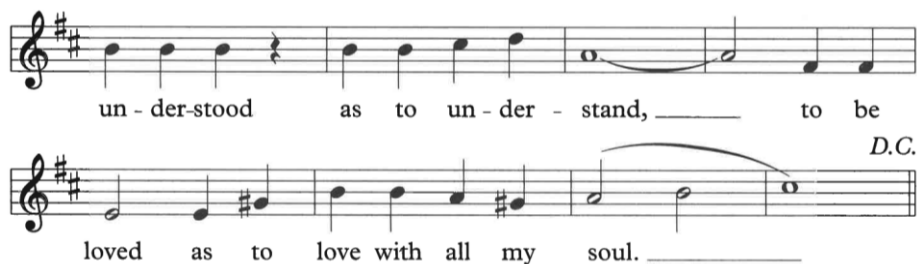
where there's doubt, true faith in you. _____
 where there's sad - ness, ev - er joy. _____
 dy - ing that we're born to e-ter-nal life. _____



3. Oh, Mas-ter, grant that I may nev - er seek _____ so



much to be con - soled as to con - sole. _____ To be



*Prayer of Dedication

Thank you God, for gifts of hope and peace. Thank you God for gifts of joy and love. Thank you God, for sending Christ to dwell on earth with us - Emmanuel. Amen.

Scripture Mark 1:1-8 (NRSV - New Revised Standard Version)

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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.

Communion Song *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Lyrics reworked by Maren Tirabassi

**O Come, O come Emmanuel
make true the stories prophets tell –
so all those chained by fear find release,
and, war forgotten, bring a world of peace.**

Refrain: **Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
is come to birth where all God’s children dwell.**

**O Come, Love's-season, to our lonely days,
and guide us in our words and ways
to be the ones whose Advent begins
with healing earth and all that live within.** (refrain)

**O come, Desire of Nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
Make envy, strife, and quarrels cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.** (refrain)

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. All are welcome! Gluten-free wafers are on the communion table. Grape juice is in the outer ring; wine is in the center circles. Please return by the side aisles.

Communion Interlude *Eyn Enchiridion* – arr. Albert Beck

based on the Plain-song melody (Eifurt, 1524)

Hymn tune traditionally sung as *Savior of the Nations, Come*

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Holy One, we give you thanks, that we have been refreshed at your table. Even as we watch and wait for you, you are already here. You are the “already and not yet,”

Strengthen our faith; increase our love for one another.

We have been fed by the seed that became grain, and then became bread. We have been quenched by the seed that became fruit, and then became wine/juice.

May we wait with patience and may we work with a sense of urgency at the same time. For we hear the cries of the people for justice, transformation, hope and peace.

Amen.

***Song of Parting** *Let There Be Peace on Earth* #677-Chalice



Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me;



let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.



With God our cre - a - tor, chil - dren all are we.



Let us walk with each oth - er in per - fect har - mo - ny.



Let peace be - gin with me; let this be the mo - ment now.



With ev - ery step I take, let this be my sol - emn vow:



to take each mo - ment and live each mo - ment in peace e - ter - nal - ly.



Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me.

***Benediction**

***God's Light Goes Forth**

***Music for Going Forth** *Truro*—tune by Thomas Williams, 1789,
sometimes sung as *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

Announcements

Please use the form at **www.parkwayucc.org/communications** for all announcements for our media. Bulletin and eNews deadline: noon Monday.

TODAY! Parkway Speaker Series: *An Inside View of the Business of Movies* by Barry Albrecht

Sunday, December 10 | 11:15am | Heritage Room or ZOOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84691476997?pwd=aEM2ZURYWURLNmkwD0EzV0VHVllyQT09#success>

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

Lifetime St. Louisan, Barry Albrecht is a film executive, who earned his first executive producer credit on the feature film, *The Ghost Who Walks*, and then the film *All Gone Wrong*. Most recently, he was the Executive Producer on the acclaimed documentary *Miracle in the Mountains*, which tells the remarkable underdog story of how Squaw Valley California became the site of the 1960 Winter Olympics with the help of Walt Disney and changed the Olympics forever. In 2019, Barry started Propulsion Films, an independent film production company. Barry is active in the non-profit sector and is currently on the Cinema St. Louis Board of Directors and the Washington University Alumni Board of Governors.

More info: Richard Scherrer: 90fivetpr@gmail.com | (314) 993-5210

Hope, Peace, Joy and Love in the Prayer Corner of the Sanctuary: Come for conversation and prayer

Join Kevin in the Prayer Corner of the Sanctuary anytime during these open hours for individual conversation and prayer about hope, peace, joy and love. If these dates don't work for you or you just prefer it, we can settle on a time for a phone call or Zoom during this season of Advent. If you arrive and the Prayer Corner is occupied, feel free to wait a few minutes in the Gathering Space and text so I know you are waiting (314-330-0629).~ Kevin

Monday, December 11 from 7-9pm

Tuesday, December 19 from 3-5pm

Tuesday Evening Dialogue ~ December 12

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

This will be a special evening to share some Christmas moments. Please bring your favorite short Christmas readings, poems, songs, memories to share.

We will also be choosing our next book so bring ideas for that too!

Contact Helen Race: raceh@att.net | (314) 401-4382

Christmas Caroling: Share the Spirit of the Season

Monday, December 18 | 9:30am -12:30pm

Help us spread the hope, peace, joy and love of the season to our PUCC friends who can use an infusion of the Spirit right now. Come to the Gathering Space for a warm-up and then head out for a festive time.

Please RSVP to kevin@parkwayucc.org; 314-872-9330

Christmas Eve this year is a Sunday!

We will worship in the morning at 10am as it is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. We will light the fourth candle in the Advent Wreath and continue to prepare ourselves for Christ's birth!

Later we will have our Christmas Eve services:

4:30pm Family Friendly Worship—A lively and spirited service with Nativity scriptures, carols and contemporary reflections. We will sing *Silent Night* by candlelight as we prepare to go out into this holy night.

7:30pm Candlelight & Communion—This traditional service includes the Christmas Gospel, choir and carols as we ponder what this love story means for us today. We will share Communion at our open table and sing *Silent Night* by candlelight.

All three services will be in the Sanctuary and on Facebook Live ~

Christmas Dinner Potluck

Monday, December 25 | 2:00-4:00pm | Heritage Room

Please join us for a fun, festive Christmas potluck dinner. Ham and rolls provided... together we will do the rest!

Please contact Gerry and Mike Rogers with RSVP, questions and/or comments at gcr123055@gmail.com; 314-434-7122

Inquirers' Gathering - for those who want to know more about PUC 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.

December 2023 Alzheimer's News:

Alzheimer's treatments: What's on the horizon?

Current Alzheimer's treatments temporarily improve symptoms of memory loss and problems with thinking and reasoning. These treatments boost the performance of chemicals in the brain that carry information from one brain cell to another.

Experts are cautious but hopeful about developing treatments that can stop or delay the progression of Alzheimer's as they continue to better understand how the disease changes the brain. This has led to research of potential Alzheimer's treatments that may affect the disease process, which may include a combination of medicine.

Taking aim at plaques - Clumps of protein beta-amyloid are known as plaques in the brain, a characteristic sign of Alzheimer's. Medicines known as monoclonal antibodies may prevent beta-amyloid from clumping into plaques. They may also remove beta-amyloid plaques that have formed. In June 2021 the U.S. FDA approved Aduhelm for people with mild cognitive impairment due to Alzheimer's disease. Studies about its effectiveness are mixed and insurance coverage is limited. Leqembi, approved in 2023, has shown promise for people with mild cognitive impairment. A phase 3 clinical trial found it slowed cognitive decline in people with early Alzheimer's Disease by 27%. Another study is looking at how effective it may be for people at risk of Alzheimer's Disease. This includes people who have a first -degree relative, such as a parent or sibling with the disease.

You can learn more by going to www.alz.org/help-support/resources or the Alzheimer's Helpline which is accessible 24/7 via 800-272-3900 and staffed by master's level clinicians to assist with crisis situations, decision making, and disease information. You can find virtual dementia caregiver resources online at alz.org/covid19help. Tools and support are also available in Spanish.

Want to learn more about the Alzheimer's Association and what they do here in St. Louis? Visit alz.org and/or contact PUCC's Faith Outreach Ambassador with the Alzheimer's Association, Joyce Ruiz at joyceruiz7@gmail.com

Our Church is a Firearm-free Zone

Some questions have recently arisen about firearms on 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.

Prayer List

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Celebrations

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

Seasonal beauty.

Families and individuals celebrating the holidays together.

Concerns

Don Wandless - continuing to strengthen and get medications aligned.

Bill Hilgeman - healing at home after serious injuries on hunting trip.

Grieving/struggling families or individuals as the holidays unfold.

The continuing war in Ukraine.

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

Continuing

Becca Palmgren - medical tests and discerning treatment options.

Kathleen Tarr - some success with her mental health program.

Karen Grayheck - healing after recent back surgery.

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

Cassie Rosenberger's mother Martha - ongoing cancer treatments.

Clare Chapman - diagnosed with terminal pancreatic cancer (Svenson)

Annette Harrison - recovering from injuries (Stifel).

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

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).

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]

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.

Second Mile Advent Gifts

We continue to receive your gifts for 2nd Mile Advent—an opportunity to stretch our hope, peace, joy and love across the area and the wider church. All gifts are shared evenly among the three mission partners below in January. Please clearly mark your financial gift “2nd Mile Advent.” You may want to honor someone in your life with a 2nd Mile Gift—perhaps that person who is hard to buy for and/or who does not have any real needs right now. We - and so many other - are grateful for your generosity.

Circle of Concern—circleofconcern.org/

Each day, Circle of Concern feeds families from the food pantry, shares financial assistance, and distribute school supplies, Thanksgiving turkeys or holiday gifts.

Mission: Circle of Concern feeds the hungry and provides assistance to low-income families living in west St. Louis County.

Our Vision: Improving every life in the community by reducing hunger and poverty

Our Values: integrity in all they do; respecting the innate worth of every Circle stakeholder, including clients, volunteers, donors, staff and community partners, and striving to reflect that respect in every interaction; collaborating with many partners so that the work of Circle is successfully accomplished; being responsible stewards of the time stakeholders donate, the talents they share and the funds they invest; committing to excellence which ensures the highest quality services for clients today and the resources to sustain them in the future.

Emmaus Homes —emmaushomes.org/

Emmaus Homes knows that adults with disabilities want to be independent. In order to do that, they need a home and a community that embraces their unique abilities. EH believes everyone deserves the resources needed to live independently.

EH understands it's tough to manage life alone, which is why for over 125 years, as a faith-based organization, they have provided high-quality service caring for the whole person for their whole life – including the individual's spiritual life.

The Christmas Fund—pbucc.org/index.php/christmas-fund-home

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

Over the last few years with COVID-19 pandemic and inflations of all kinds, the emergency financial needs of many who serve the church have increased dramatically. In such a time as this, the need for the Christmas Fund is more urgent than ever.