

# Epiphany



**PARKWAY**

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**ALL ACCEPTED, NO EXCEPTIONS**



www.parkwayucc.org

January 7, 2024

## Contents

- 4 Birthdays and Anniversaries
- 5 10:00am Worship
- 10 Announcements
- 14 Prayer List

## 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

---

2841 North Ballas Road | St. Louis, MO 63131 | 314-872-9330 [p] | 314-872-9014 [f]  
parkwayucc.org | contact@parkwayucc.org

Lana Biondo, *President of the Church Council* [puccpresident@parkwayucc.org]

Kevin Cameron, *Pastor* [kevin@parkwayucc.org]

Barry Luedloff, *Music Director* [barry@parkwayucc.org]

Gabriel Requadt, *Christian Ed & Admin Support* [gabriel@parkwayucc.org]

Mona Smith Herberg, *Website and Graphic Design* [mona@parkwayucc.org]

Kathy Ferrell, *Office Assistant* [kathy@parkwayucc.org]

John Dwyer, *Treasurer* [treasurer@parkwayucc.org]

Dawn Friedmann, *Bookkeeper* [dawn@parkwayucc.org]

Julie Connors and Becca Palmgren, *Nursery* [juliestl1992@yahoo.com]

Kim Livengood, *Church Historian* [historian@parkwayucc.org]

Joyce Ruiz, *Alzheimer's Assn Faith Outreach Ambassador* [JoyceRuiz7@gmail.com]

Polly Rutherford, *Environmental Justice/Sustainability Seekers* [pollyrutherford@gmail.com]

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** Dottie Dwyer

**Flowers today** Poinsettias that have been donated by many for the season

**Please** consider signing up to donate flowers and/or read scripture in 2024: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60BoD4CA4AC23AB9-scripture1>  
Flower poster is on the large bulletin board in the Gathering Space.

**Subscribe to our email lists:** Sign up at [www.parkwayucc.org](http://www.parkwayucc.org)

**All word and service music reprint** permission covered under CCLI License #2464265; CLCLI Streaming License #21357331

## 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](http://www.crisistextline.org)  
Behavioral Health Network of Greater St Louis 314-449-6713

The numbers below are called Warmlines (not Hotlines).

They are peer run by people with lived experience.

Not all of them are 24/7/365

Teen Warm Line: 1 800-248-8336

Black Warm Line: 1-800-604-5841 (They are divested from the police)

Trans Warm Line: 1-877-565-8860

Project Return Warm Line: 1-800-448-9777 (run away)

Learn more about warm lines: <https://warmline.org/warmdir.html>

## Anniversaries

1/10 Karen and Bill Nolte

## Birthdays

1/07 Marilyn McDougall

1/11 Kacey Brueggemann

1/14 Marsha Peek

1/14 Janie Pillai

# Epiphany

Sunday, January 7, 2024 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

**Welcome** Let us know you are here!

**Meditation** This day of Epiphany celebrates the coming of the three Magi/Wisemen/Kings to see Jesus as they learned about his birth. They followed the star to find him, the one they recognized as the ‘light of the world’. The season of Epiphany is one in which we celebrate light. We look for ways that Jesus shares light on the nature of God’s kingdom and we celebrate how he reveals that kingdom in the world.

## Passing the Peace of Christ

“May the peace of Christ be with you.”

**Prelude** *We Three Kings of Orient Are*

John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1857), arr. by Fred Bock (1984)

## Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

**Introit** *Shine, O Star* – words by Mary Kay Beall / music by Lloyd Larson  
Shine, O star, and illumine our darkness. Shine, O star, and beckon the seeker.  
Shine, O star, and lead us on our way. Shine, O star, and lead us on our way.

**Scripture** Matthew 2:1-12 (CEB – Common English Bible)

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. They asked, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We’ve seen his star in the east, and we’ve come to honor him.”

When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. They said, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote:

*You, Bethlehem, land of Judah,*

*by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah,  
because from you will come one who governs,  
who will shepherd my people Israel.”*

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search carefully for the child. When you’ve found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him.” When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

## Song *We Three Kings of Orient Are*



*All:* 1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are,  
*Opt. solo:* 2. Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain,  
*Opt. solo:* 3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I:  
*Opt. solo:* 4. Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume  
*All:* 5. Glo - rious now be - hold Him a - rise,



Bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far, Field and foun - tain,  
Gold I bring to crown Him a - gain, King for ev - er,  
In - cense owns a De - i - ty nigh; Prayer and prais - ing  
Breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom; Sor - rowing, sigh - ing,  
King and God and Sac - ri - fice; Al - le - lu - ia,



moor and moun - tain, Fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
ceas - ing nev - er O - ver us all to reign.  
we are rais - ing, Wor - ship - ing God Most High.  
bleed - ing, dy - ing, Sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
Al - le - lu - ia Sounds through the earth and skies.

### *Refrain*



O star of won - der, star of night,



Star with roy - al beau - ty bright; West - ward lead - ing,



still pro - ceed - ing, Guide us to thy per - fect light!

## Scripture *Isaiah 60:1-6 (NRSV – New Revised Standard Version)*

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you...

A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

## \*Call to Worship

One:	We continue to celebrate Jesus' birth here at the end of these twelve days of Christmas.
Many:	<b>Because Jesus is a baby that needs a lot of help, we learn how important it is for us to care for each other.</b>
One:	We also learn from Jesus as he grows into an adult. His light grows and grows and he shines it on everyone.
Many:	<b>In our gospel lesson today, Jesus heals a man who was paralyzed. The man needed help getting to Jesus. His friends helped him. We can all be helpers.</b>
One:	Jesus shows us that God's love and care are for all people. Jesus welcomes everyone into the light and warmth.
Many:	<b>Jesus reminds us that there is no 'us' and 'them'. We are all God's children. We are all in this together.</b>
All:	<b>Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.</b>

## \*Opening Prayer

God of Love, You sent Jesus into the world to get our attention. Jesus shows us how loved we are. Jesus shows us how to use our power and how to make room for one another. Jesus tells us about our light and shows us how to use it and share it. Send the Holy Spirit to help us. Amen.

**Children's Time** Please return to your seats for this One Family Worship.

## Blessing the Children *Jesus Loves Me*

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



## 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.

[www.parkwayucc.org/giving](http://www.parkwayucc.org/giving)

## **Offertory** *Good News* – by Natalie Sleeth

Good news! Good news! News of great joy!  
For unto us in Bethlehem is born now a boy!  
Good news! Good news! Joyfully sing!  
For unto us in Bethlehem is cradled a King!  
Come, come, be of good cheer!  
Christ, our Savior, is here!  
Good news! Good news! Welcome the morn!  
For unto us in Bethlehem, Christ Jesus is born!

News! News! News of great joy!  
For unto all people is born now a boy!  
News! News! Joyfully sing!  
For Bethlehem's manger now cradles a King!  
Come, come, be of good cheer!  
Christ, our Savior, is here!  
News! News! Welcome the morn!  
For there in a stable, Christ Jesus is born.  
For there in a stable Christ Jesus, our Savior, is born!

## **\*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**

**Thank you, God, for all that You give us. Help us to be givers too.  
Amen.**

## **Scripture** Mark 2:1-12 (NRSV – New Revised Standard Version)

When Jesus returned to Capernaum, it was reported that he was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four friends. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.' Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, 'Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?' At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, 'Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, "Your sins are forgiven", or to say, "Stand up and take your mat and walk"? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins'—he said to the paralytic— 'I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home.' And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, 'We have never seen anything like this!'

## Reflection

**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 *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:  
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at his ta - ble he set the tone,  
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.  
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.  
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - ery - where!

*Refrain (first time p, second time f)*



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

## Pastoral Prayer, Prayers of the People, Lord's Prayer

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

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

## \*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.

## \*Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Holy One, we give you thanks for this simple and sacred meal. We are blessed by its nurture and momentum. Send us out to be Christ's hands, heart and voice. Guide us into places where we will carry Christ's love, and share his light for all people. Amen.**



## \*Song of Parting *Christ Be Our Light*

1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for  
2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for  
3 Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for  
4 Long-ing for shel - ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for  
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the

truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants

your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
has power to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
to one an - oth - er. mak - ing your king - dom come.

*Refrain*

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the  
dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your  
church gath - ered to - day.

## \*Benediction

## \*God's Light Goes Forth

\*Music for Going Forth *Puer Nobis Nascitur* (What Star Is This...)  
Trier ms., 15<sup>th</sup> c. / adapt. by Michael Praetorius (1609)

# Announcements

Please use the form at [www.parkwayucc.org/communications](http://www.parkwayucc.org/communications) for all announcements for our media. Bulletin and eNews deadline: noon Monday.

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

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](mailto:kevin@parkwayucc.org) | 314-872-9330

*Childcare is available that evening if requested ahead of time.*

## **Tuesday Evening Discussion New Book on January 9**

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday | 6:00pm potluck | 7:00pm discussion | Heritage Rm

Please join us on for our first session on *The Book of Charlie* by David Von Drehle. This is the true story of the author's neighbor, 109-year old Charlie. Von Drehle came to understand that Charlie's resilience and willingness to grow made this remarkable man a master in the art of thriving through times of dramatic change. *The Book of Charlie* is a gospel of grit—the inspiring story of one man's journey through a century of upheaval. The history that unfolds through Charlie's story reminds you that the United States has always been a divided nation, a questing nation, an inventive nation—a nation of Charlies in the rollercoaster pursuit of a good and meaningful life. Read the first 50 pages for our first session. Contact Helen Race: [raceh@att.net](mailto:raceh@att.net) | (314) 401-4382

## **AWOL: Adventurous Women Out Late**

**Join us as we make new connections and strengthen existing ones.**

Saturday, January 13 at 6:30pm in the Heritage Room

Golden Globe nominated film – Oppenheimer. We will have an intermission ~ bathroom break for this lengthy, important, well done film. Bring a pillow, blanket and a snack to share!

Thursday, February 15

*Mamma Mia* at The Fox Theater 7:30pm (around \$65) **RSVP by TODAY**

Sunday, January 7 so we can purchase tickets.

Sunday, March 3 at 1pm- ART IN BLOOM @ The St. Louis Art Museum.

This event requires RSVP also

Saturday, April 13 at 1pm- Spend a couple of hours with us at Laumière Sculpture Park

Friday, May 10 at 6pm- Dinner on the patio - details TBA.

Contact Carmen Bumgarner: [cbum@charter.net](mailto:cbum@charter.net) | (314) 330-0813

## **Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue's New Book Starting January 16**

### ***The Anthropocene Reviewed* by John Green**

TAD resumes Tuesday, January 16 at 2:00pm. We're looking forward to hearing what books everyone enjoyed over our break. Discussion from 2:00pm – 3:00pm and fellowship at 1:45pm.

TAD's next book is John Green's *The Anthropocene Reviewed: Essays On a Human-Centered Planet*. From Amazon: “*The Anthropocene* is the current geologic age, in which humans have profoundly reshaped the planet and its biodiversity. In this remarkable symphony of essays adapted and expanded from his groundbreaking podcast, bestselling author John Green reviews different facets of the human-centered planet on a five-star scale—from the QWERTY keyboard and sunsets to Canada geese and Penguins of Madagascar. Funny, complex, and rich with detail, the reviews chart the contradictions of contemporary humanity.” TAD would love to have you.

Contact Jackie Eiffert: [jeiffert2@gmail.com](mailto:jeiffert2@gmail.com); 661-378-6781

#### **Zoom**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83670617428?pwd=bUxPZEdDMlU4ay9oNndTWw4yZUYwUT09>  
(312) 626-6799; Meeting ID: 836 7061 7428; Passcode: 480007

## **Parkway Adventurers in 2024**

Join us for a *Dutch Brunch & 2024 Planning* on Tuesday, January 16 at 9:30am at *Sunny Street Cafe* in Des Peres - 11692 Manchester Road, 63131. We will plan interesting outings for 2024 with different PUCcers coordinating each outing. We usually go somewhere for lunch at a nearby restaurant too. Being with church members and learning something new about the St. Louis community is fun and educational.

SEE JANUARY 25 INVITATION BELOW ....

Past adventures have included *The Magic Chef Mansion*; *The History Museum*; *The Holocaust Museum* and *The La Salle Retreat Center*.

RSVP to Carol/Harold Cobb for the 2024 Planning Brunch at [ccjacob@aol.com](mailto:ccjacob@aol.com); 314-640-8166

## **Adventurers ~ Urban Archaeology: Lost Buildings of St. Louis**

Pulitzer Arts Foundation, 3716 Washington Boulevard, St Louis MO 63108

Join the PUCC Adventurers on Thursday, January 25 as we visit the Pulitzer Arts Foundation's exhibition *Urban Archaeology: Lost Buildings of St. Louis*. The modern Pulitzer building is accessible, parking is close, and entry is free. We'll meet at Parkway at 9:30am for carpooling or 10:00am at the Pulitzer Arts Foundation. Afterward we'll head to a restaurant for lunch.

This fascinating exhibition brings together salvaged architectural elements from landmark buildings, residential homes, and neighborhood institutions built in St. Louis between 1840 and 1950. The artifacts on display represent important histories of material innovation, labor, and the everyday lives of the people who inhabit the city. The exhibition sheds light on the city's history, revealing complicated legacies of power, wealth, and neglect that shape our experience of the built environment and daily life. Those people with a long history in the St. Louis area will remember many of the buildings from which the artifacts were salvaged. Included is a 15-minute film about St. Louis architecture, demolition, and revitalization, and an opportunity to provide your own input to the exhibit if you'd like. For more information:

<https://pulitzerarts.org/art/urban-archaeology-lost-buildings-of-st-louis/>

There is a very small modern art exhibit in the building that can be viewed as well if you'd like, **Sarah Crowner: Around Orange**.

Contact Jackie Eiffert at [jeiffert2@gmail.com](mailto:jeiffert2@gmail.com) with any questions.

## **Speaker Series**

### **Occasional opportunities after worship at 11:15am**

#### **January 21 - Remembrances of a Parkway Pastor**

Rev. John Nourse served Parkway for many years with distinction and compassion. He will share his memories of those times and welcome audience participation to provide their own recollections and favorite stories of this special person, as we embark on an hour of nostalgia, grace, gratitude, and humor.

#### **January 28 - The Kim Gardner Saga**

By all objective standards, Kim Gardner was a stunning failure as the City of St. Louis' top prosecutor, but she stubbornly refused to give up her position. Our speaker, Bill Corrigan served as the number two person in the Missouri Attorney General's office and will recount his story as the lead attorney in the court case that successfully forced Ms. Gardner out of office.

Our Speaker Series is in person in the Heritage Room and on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84691476997?pwd=aEM2ZURyWURLNmkwdoEzV0VHV1IyQT09#success>

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

Questions? contact Richard Scherrer - [90fivetpr@gmail.com](mailto:90fivetpr@gmail.com); 314- 591-6803

## Youth Writing Workshop – Thursday, January 11

Does your child have a passion for writing? Have they expressed interest in putting an idea down on paper but haven't quite found the words yet? Well, look no further! With the Youth Writing Workshop, children from 6th-12th grade have the opportunity to connect and collaborate with others on their story ideas, with the help of a published author, to give new life to their inspirations. We will meet over Zoom on the 2nd Thursday of every month from 6-7pm, our next session will be on January 11!

Those interested can reach out to me at [gabriel@parkwayucc.org](mailto:gabriel@parkwayucc.org)

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82501433824>

Meeting ID: 825 0143 3824

## Join the Children's Ministry Team

We are looking for two additional volunteers to join the team and help teach Children's Ministry in 2024. It's an excellent way to serve in this church, and we have a vibrant Children's Ministry program. So, if you have a joy teaching children from PreK to 3rd Grade, we'd love to have ya! It's pretty low commitment, so not too demanding, so if you feel you'd have a couple weeks out of the month free, or even just one week a month, then this could be the right fit for you.

If interested, please reach out to Gabriel Requadt, our Director of Christian Education, for more information: [gabriel@parkwayucc.org](mailto:gabriel@parkwayucc.org)

## Looking for More Singers for PUC Sanctuary Choir

If you've always imagined singing in the choir—or the thought is just occurring to you for the first time right now, why not give it a try?

We're needing extra singers right now—reach out to [barry@parkwayucc.org](mailto:barry@parkwayucc.org) 636-485-5378 to let him know!

We have an intergenerational choir called *First Sunday Choir* that gathers at 9am on the first Sunday of each month to learn a simple song or two to sing that morning in worship.

The *Sanctuary Choir* sings on the second and fourth Sundays of each month from September – May and practices on Thursday evenings.

Our *Children's Choir* sings on the third Sunday of each month.

## 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, January 4, 2024

## Celebrations

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

**Oehlers** as Emily & Josh Farr wed this wknd - Whiteman Air Force Base

**Sue Moellering** - Eden Seminary Immersion Trip from January 6-13th

<https://www.eden.edu/events/international-immersion-seminar/>

*Footsteps of Romero*: International Immersion Seminar in El Salvador **Mike**

**& Gerry Rogers** - hosting an exchange student, Beiberys (pronounced

'Baybars') from Kazakhstan this semester - arrives Jan 9.

## Concerns

**Family and friends of Sue Houser** as they mourn & celebrate her.

**Jo Grove** - gallbladder surgery this Friday at Barnes Hospital, St Louis.

**Pinky Wilcoxon** - strengthening at Delmar, Creve Coeur after surgery

(Please consider writing or visiting Pinky - see info next column).

**Lori Connors** - healing from Jan 2 cataract surgery; second one Jan 8.

**Val Detjen** - additional surgery on January 9.

**Becca Palmgren** - preparing for surgery on January 11.

**Kari Borgmann** - her mom becoming more feeble, lack of awareness.

**John Nourse and family** - two cousins died by suicide together.

**Jackie** - loving/supporting ailing mom (102); grieving step-father (103).

**Matt Albers** - cancer now in lungs - inoperable; clinical trial (Connors).

**Susan Shogren** - very ill with lymphoma (Svenson).

**The people of Japan** after natural disasters last weekend.

**The continuing war in Ukraine.**

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

## Continuing

**Bill Hilgeman** - continued healing after serious injuries.

**Rebecca Ray** - that her book on suicide prevention will be published.

**Cassie Rosenberger's mother Martha** - ongoing cancer treatments.

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

**Seger Ruiz** - paralyzed from car accident in September.

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

**Annette Harrison** - recovering from injuries (Stifel).

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

**Nelson Spencer** - medical concerns (Ellie Svenson).

**Barb** - complications with cancer tx and at odds with insurance co (Tarr)

**Cherie & Mike Stolze and family** - her chronic health challenges.

**Bill & Nancy Darland** - his ongoing health issues.

**Gail, Bill and Christopher Haack** - chronic health challenges.

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

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

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

## Home-Centered/Care Facility/Rehab Center

**Marv Herpel** - *Brookdale West County*; 785 Henry Ave, #217; Ballwin, MO 63021; 636-227-5838 [birthdate: March 3]

**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]

**Judy Waddell** - *McKnight Place*; 3 McKnight Pl, #229; StL MO 63124; 314-312-1129 [birthdate: August 13]

**Pinky Wilcoxen** - *Delmar Gardens Creve Coeur*; 850 Country Manor Ln; #130; Creve Coeur, MO 63141; 314-434-5900 [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.

# Epiphany

January 7, 2024

**The Baptism of Christ** – *celebrated in early January*

Mark 1:4-11

“Every time you listen with great attentiveness to the voice that calls you the Beloved, you will discover within yourself a desire to hear that voice longer and more deeply. It is like discovering a well in the desert. Once you have touched wet ground, you want to dig deeper.”

~Henri Nouwen, *Life of the Beloved*: *Spiritual Living in a Secular World*.

A Dutch priest interested in the intersection of theology and psychology, Henri Nouwen was born in January 1932 and moved to the United States in the early 1960s. In the 1970s and into the 1980s, he taught at Yale and Harvard where many progressive seminary students received their education in those years. Nouwen’s teaching about the human need for connection with God and one another, and the necessity for creating peace in individuals as well as in communities and the world, was influential to a generation of pastors, many of whom went on to serve at United Church of Christ churches.

Nouwen was deeply moved by the work of L’Arch communities, which are Christian communities formed of people both with and without developmental disabilities, and at the end of his life he left his relatively prestigious and well-paying career to live in a L’Arch community himself.

Nouwen wrote widely about this life and experience. But although he never spoke publicly about this, Nouwen revealed in his letters and in conversations with friends that he knew he was gay. Because of his generation and circumstances, the reality of Nouwen being closeted caused him pain and loneliness. And yet, his writings about the importance of creating beloved community taught countless student pastors who went on to lead movements to create Open and Affirming United Church of Christ congregations, which welcome all.

It is likely that the church where you are worshipping today was at one time led by a pastor who was taught by Henri Nouwen, who passed away in 1996. He was never able to live openly as full self, and for that this generation may grieve. Yet, his life opened doors for countless others and the impact of his teaching is still being felt today and for that, all who were touched by his life can rejoice.