





www.parkwayucc.org

January 14, 2024

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## Limitless Love | Courageous Action | Spirited Inquiry

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### 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** Cynthia Levin. If you would like to volunteer to be a reader, sign up online **here**.

**Flowers** Consider signing up to donate flowers on the large bulletin board in the Gathering Space.

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

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## **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://warmlines.org/warmdir.html>

## **Birthdays**

01/14 PEEK, Marsha

01/14 PILLAI, Janie

01/19 MASTERSON, Max

01/20 PATEL, Cora

01/20 WOLFF, Vivienne

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday *after* Epiphany

Sunday, January 14, 2024 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

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

## **Meditation**

This morning I heard the Spirit say... Check your roots. Are your roots healthy? Are your roots anchored? Never measure life by the leaves. Check the roots. Leaves reflect seasons. Roots reflect strength and sustainability.  
~Traci Blackmon

## **Passing the Peace of Christ**

“May the peace of Christ be with you.”

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

## **Prelude** *Thoughts of Worship*

Ron Loree (1999)

## **Introit** *Hear Us, O God*

words by Nancy Price and Don Besig / music by Don Besig

Hear us, O God, as we come now in prayer.  
Sharing our joys, our troubles and our cares.  
Help us, O God, to be open to your word  
And teach us to put our trust in you!

## **Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell**

## **Welcome Song** *O God, You Give Welcome*

ST. DENIO 11.11.11 ("Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise")

O God, you give welcome; you care and provide.  
You cherish each person with love reaching wide.  
We're made in your image and so hear your call  
To humbly reach out with a welcome to all.

## **Scripture** Mark 4, selected verses (New Revised Standard Version)

Again Jesus began to teach beside the sea. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the sea and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold." And Jesus said, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!"

## \*Call to Worship

One: Lost sheep, lost coins, lost people.

**Many: God gathers them all in.**

One: Seeds on the rocky path, seeds in nutritious soil, mustard seeds.

**Many: God waters them all.**

One: Lamps under a bushel, on a lampstand, out for repair.

**Many: God enlightens them all.**

One: People passing by, moving across the street to avoid, stopping to care.

**Many: God is the God of them all.**

One: Come to listen and learn some of the stories Jesus tells. We are open to learning a new thing - and to confirming what we have already learned - that we might put it all into practice.

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

## \*Song *Creator of Mountains #2061*



1. Cre - a - tor of moun-tains, of gla - ciers and streams,  
2. Cre - a - tor of peo - ples and rac - es and tribes,  
3. Cre - a - ted for car - ing for all hu - man need,  
4. Cre - a - tor of riv - er and for - est and snow,  
5. Great God, now we come, our hearts grate - ful for days



Great Splash-er of foun-tains and Dream - er of dreams,  
not bound by church stee - ples or what myth de - scribes,  
we seek to be dar - ing in thought and in deed.  
E - ter - nal Life - giv - er whose pres - ence we know,  
when faith, like a drum-beat, keeps stead - y our praise.



we gath - er in won - der and praise for Your grace.  
we cel - e - brate now our di - ver - si - ty here,  
Turn us from all strife that de - means or di - vides.  
Your voice is re - sound-ing in storm, wind, and wave.  
In song and re - joic - ing hopes stir and a - rise,



Re - spond-ing, we pon - der our work in this place.  
in pen - i - tence vow to ac - cept and not fear.  
Re - form us for life that em - powers and a - bides.  
Your love is a - bound-ing, em - brac - ing to save.  
our spir - its now voic - ing their hymns to the skies.

**\*Opening Prayer** based on the words by Christine Longhurst  
**O God, we gather together in Your presence with expectation, hungry for an encounter with You, eager to hear Your Word and feel Your touch. Open our eyes and ears to the presence of Your Holy Spirit. May the seeds of Your Word scattered among us now fall on fertile soil. May they take root in our hearts and lives, and produce an abundant harvest of good words and deeds. Amen.**

**\*Response** *Spirit of the Living God*  
**Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me;**  
**Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.**  
**Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me!**  
**Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.**

### **Children's Time**

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 5<sup>th</sup> grade can follow one of our teachers down to Room 12 (lower level), and youth from 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> 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** *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.**

**Scripture** Mark 4, selected verses (NRSV - New Revised Standard Version)  
Jesus said to them, "Is a lamp brought in to be put under the bushel basket, or under the bed, and not on the lampstand? For there is nothing hidden, except to be disclosed; nor is anything secret, except to come to light. Let anyone with ears to hear listen!" And he said to them, "Pay attention to what you hear; the measure you give will be the measure you get, and still more will be given you."

He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."



He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

## **Moment of Silent Reflection**

### **Sermon**

**A Time of Prayer** *You Have Searched Me, Lord, And Known Me*  
NETTLETON 8.7.8.7 D ("Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing")

You have searched me, Lord, and known me!  
All my life is in your care.  
When I lie awake in evening,  
You are always with me there.  
When I rise to greet the morning  
In an attitude of praise,  
What I learn from you is humbling:  
You already know my ways.

Lord, you know the song I'm singing  
and my words before I pray.  
You're behind me and before me  
As I travel through each day.  
You once knit me all together;  
You created me by grace.  
In your eyes, you see and love me  
As you treasure all my days.

Lord, I try to learn your wisdom,  
But I cannot understand.  
Yet your love is all around me;  
I am part of all you've planned.  
Let me sing your praise each morning,  
Let me serve you all day through,  
And in evening, make me peaceful,  
Knowing this: I'm loved by you!

### **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.

## **Offertory Anthem** *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

Paul Manz, based on Houston by Kathleen Thomerson

I want to walk as a child of the light.

I want to follow Jesus.

God sent the stars to give light to the world.

The star of my life is Jesus.

*Refrain:* In him there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike

The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Shine in my heart dear Jesus

I want to see the brightness of God.

I want to look at Jesus.

Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,

And show me the way to Creator. (*refrain*)

I'm looking for the coming of Christ.

I want to be with Jesus.

When we have run with patience the race, we

Shall know the joy of Jesus. (*refrain*)

## **\*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, with gratitude, we receive these gifts and dedicate them to our shared work: serving human wholeness, and welcoming the stranger; caring for our planet, and upholding religious freedom; walking together, always, with love and compassion. Amen.**



## **\*Song of Parting** *Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil*

Please sing twice

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics are placed below the notes on each staff.

## **\*Benediction**

## **\*God's Light Goes Forth**

## **\*Music for Going Forth** *You Are the Light of the World*

Lani Smith

# 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.

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

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

Thursday, February 15

*Mamma Mia* at The Fox Theater 7:30pm (around \$65) **RSVP TODAY** 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: [cfbum@charter.net](mailto:cfbum@charter.net) | (314) 330-0813

## **Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue's New Book Starting January 16** ***The Anthropocene Reviewed* by John Green**

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday | 1:45pm fellowship | 2:00pm discussion | Zoom

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

TAD resumes Tuesday, January 16. 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

## **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.

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 [cjccobb@aol.com](mailto:cjccobb@aol.com); 314-640-8166

## Tuesday Evening Dialogue – January 23

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday | 6:00pm potluck | 7:00pm discussion | Heritage Rm  
Please join us on for our second 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 up to Chapter 8 for our second session. Contact Helen Race: raceh@att.net | (314) 401-4382

## 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 with any questions.

## Parkway UCC Speaker Series

**Occasional opportunities after worship from 11:15am-12pm**  
**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=aEM2ZURYWURLNmkwdoEzVoVHV1IyQT09#success>

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

Questions? contact Richard Scherrer - 90fivetpr@gmail.com; 314- 591-6803

## **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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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); 314-872-9330

## **January 2024 Alzheimer's News**

The St. Louis Walk To End Alzheimer's last October raised \$1,025,000. Our Parkway team raised \$2,095 of that total. Thanks to all the donors, volunteers, walkers, and supporters. Because you walk, we are in a new era of treatment. For the first time, we have treatments that can change the course of Alzheimer's. We help fuel critical progress in dementia science by investing in over 1,000 active best-of-field research projects in 53 countries. We are in a new era of treatment, with FDA – approved drugs that can change disease progression in the early stages of Alzheimer's Disease.

You can learn more by going to [www.alz.org/help-support/resources](http://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](http://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](http://alz.org) and/or contact PUC's Faith Outreach Ambassador with the Alzheimer's Association, Joyce Ruiz at [joyceruiz7@gmail.com](mailto:joyceruiz7@gmail.com)

## Looking for More Singers for PUCC 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.

## Account Quinn Caldwell

*"I tell you, on the day of judgement you will have to give an account for every careless word you utter."* – Matthew 12:36 (NRSVUE)

Well, crap. I mean, shoot! I mean, sorry Jesus!

Some of us are out here talking about how Jesus is hugs and butterflies all the time. Meanwhile, he's out here counting up every time I speak without thinking.

Every careless word? All of them? Yikes. Even if he looks at me lovingly and hugs me while saying, "I forgive you, dear child" after each account of a careless word, it's still going to be pretty terrible to make our way through what I'm sure will be a very thick file.

He does offer a little hope in the next breath: he says that we may be condemned by our words, but we'll be *justified* by our words as well. So the mercy I'm hoping for here is that he follows up the account of the careless words with an accounting of the careful ones, too.

Part of me hopes for this just so we can get the bad stuff out of the way and move on to the congratulatory portion of the program. But really, it's because that will mean that even if I can't take away all the damage my careless words have wrought, it will still matter when I say things like:

"I'm sorry."

"What can I do?"

"I owe you repair. I'd like to do \_\_\_\_\_."

"I didn't know then. I know better now."

"I really regret saying that. I wasn't thinking. You deserve better."

"Will you forgive me?"

If Jesus counts the words that justify us as well as the ones that condemn us, it means that I still have time to try to fix what my carelessness has done.

**Prayer:** Grant me thoughtfulness. Amen.

# Prayer List

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

## Celebrations

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

**Oehlers** as Emily & Josh Farr wed last 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 - arrives tomorrow!

## Concerns

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

**Jo Grove** - healing from Friday's gallbladder surgery.

**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; other eye today.

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

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

**Biondo and Rogers homes** - positive tests for COVID over weekend.

**Sally Dodge** - traveling to Philly for granddaughter's tonsillectomy.

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

**Family and friends of Susan Shogren** as they grieve and give thanks

**Nelson Spencer** - continued treatment for multiple issues (Svenson)

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

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

**The people of Perry, IA** after last week's deadly school gun violence.

**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).

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

**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

**President 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.

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday *after* Epiphany

January 14, 2024

## **Second Sunday after Epiphany**

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

*Known and Loved*

“In a real sense all life is inter-related. All men are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be, and you can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be...

This is the inter-related structure of reality.” - Martin Luther King, Jr., *Letter from Birmingham Jail*

This week includes Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The day will be celebrated in many secular settings like schools and businesses. It’s also important to honor this day in church, as we celebrate King’s call to ministry and the church and faith that formed his thought and action.

In the above short quote from King’s classic and powerful, *Letter from Birmingham Jail*, he takes his fellow pastors to task for their unwillingness to advocate on behalf of the civil rights movement. He asks them to imagine what would be possible if Christians spoke with one voice against injustice and hatred.

That same impulse is behind the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which began more than a century ago when friends corresponded about their longing for unity across the lines that too often divide those who profess to follow the same Christ. One of the friends suggested a day to pray for unity and the other responded that it would be even more powerful to expand that day to an “octave” or eight holy days. The original octave was founded by two Episcopalians, Father Paul, and Mother Lurana. During this week, all Christians are called to reflect on scriptures, pray for unity within the faith and participate in communal services together.

From Martin Luther King, Jr. in the American South, to Mother Lurana in the British countryside, listen! Can you hear the voices of our ancestors in faith? They are calling, commanding us to pray, move and act together for peace.