Jesus Sends the Twelve







www.parkwayucc.org February 4, 2024

Contents

- 3 Birthdays and Anniversaries
- 4 10:00am Worship
- 11 Announcements
- 15 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

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Welcome to Parkway

Thank you for joining us this morning! If you are with us virtually, please let us know you are here by commenting in the chat or sending an email.

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

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

Scripture Reader Jackie Eiffert

Flowers today donated by Carol and Harold Cobb. Please consider signing up to donate flowers on the large bulletin board in the Gathering Space!

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

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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 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

Birthdays

- 02/05 Elise Bowman
- 02/05 Emily Oehler
- 02/06 Dana Schrenker
- 02/07 Sharon Lowenthal
- 02/07 Virginia Fagerberg
- 02/09 Quinn Waddell
- 02/09 Jennifer Degroote
- 02/09 Leah Sperry

5th Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, February 4th, 2024 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Prelude *Beautiful Savior (Schönester Herr Jesu)* – arr. by Lani Smith, based on the traditional Silesian melody, © Lorenze Publishing

Welcome Let us know you are here!

Meditation Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase. -Martin Luther King, Jr.

Passing the Peace of Christ

"May the peace of Christ be with you."

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

*Call to Worship

For the times we find the good news more of a burden than a joy,
Lord have mercy.
For the times we draw distinctions between us and them,
Lord have mercy.
For the times we wander alone and leave your community,
Lord have mercy.
Hear the good news: by the love of Christ, we are forgiven, and
free to live in love, serve with compassion, and worship in
community.
Let us worship our God together-Creator, Christ and
Spirit.

***Opening Prayer**

Lord, God of new beginnings, we come before you in humble worship. You made the Word flesh to bring your good news into the world, and you call us to share that news with others. But often we neglect our responsibilities and ignore our callings. For this we confess. Hear the confessions we offer you aloud or in our silence. Amen.



Scripture Mark 6:6b-13 (Good News Bible)

Then Jesus went to the villages around there, teaching the people. He called the twelve disciples together and sent them out two by two. He gave them authority over the evil spirits and ordered them, "Don't take anything with you on the trip except a walking stick—no bread, no beggar's bag, no money in your pockets. Wear sandals, but don't carry an extra shirt." He also told them, "Wherever you are welcomed, stay in the same house until you leave that place. If you come to a town where people do not welcome you or will not listen to you, leave it and shake the dust off your feet. That will be a warning to them!"

So, they went out and preached that people should turn away from their sins. They drove out many demons, and rubbed olive oil on many sick people and healed them.

Silent Reflection





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

Offertory Anthem *My Lord, What a Morning!* – Traditional Spiritual, arr. by Jay Althouse (sung by 1st Sunday Choir)

(Refrain) My Lord, what a morning. My Lord, what a morning. O, my Lord, what a morning when the stars begin to fall.

You'll hear the trumpet sound To wake the nations underground Looking to my God's right hand. When the stars begin to fall. (Refrain)

You'll hear the people moan to wake the nations underground. Looking to my God's right hand. When the stars begin to fall. (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**

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

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



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.

Communion Interlude *Prayer* – by Felix Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)

*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 Go, Tell It on the Mountain



*Benediction *God's Light Goes Forth Annual Congregational Meeting: Budget

Sending the Word Home For your spiritual nourishment during the week.



The Story & Home + Youth #2-21+ February 4, 2024 Jesus Sends the Twelve

Unit 7: The Power of the Kingdom

LAST WEEK

Jesus heals a woman and raises a young girl from the dead (Mark 5:21-43).

THIS WEEK

Jesus returns to his hometown and finds that there is little faith among them. Jesus then sends out the twelve disciples to heal and spread the good news (Mark 6:1-29).

Story Summary

Preaching the good news of God's love is challenging. When Jesus teaches in his hometown of Nazareth, his authority in the synagogue is questioned. Jesus sends out the twelve disciples and gives them the authority to preach the good news and heal people. He warns them that they and their message will not always be welcome. Although the power of God's love is everywhere, some may not see it, and others may be threatened by it. King Herod abuses his earthly authority to execute John the Baptist, the one who prepared the way for Jesus.

Practice: Prayer

Can people see a glimpse of God's kingdom in your life? Can they see God's love and forgiveness in how you live and treat others, even through your brokenness? Pray for God to give you wisdom and guidance to live in God's love and the inspiration and boldness to both show and tell others about God's kingdom. Think about people in your life with whom you can share God's love and pray for them.

The Point

We are to spread the good news of the kingdom.

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

What Is the Kingdom of God?

One of the strongest themes in the Gospels is the kingdom of God. When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we pray for God's kingdom to come. This kingdom is not a physical place on Earth. The kingdom of God exists whenever people live in God's love and do God's work. In this way, the kingdom of God is here and now. However, that is not all. God's kingdom is something that has not arrived yet. We see glimpses of God's kingdom in our world and in our time, but God promises to remake our world into a place of peace, love, and justice; a place without any suffering or evil. The good news is that this work has already begun, and we are a part of God's kingdom.

NEXT WEEK

The transfiguration reveals Jesus' authority as the Messiah, the Son of God (Mark 8:27-9:8).

Jesus Sends the Twelve

Going Deeper

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God's message to us? Consider the following basic pattern as a way of forming family devotions:

- ♥ Light a candle to help you focus this time as "God time." Pray a simple prayer together.
- ✤ Take a moment to check in with each other; what are each person's "highs" and "lows" today?
- ✤ Read aloud from the Daily Bible Readings from below. Discuss the questions following each.
- End with a blessing, by simply tracing a cross on each other's forehead. The Lord's Prayer is a good way to end your devotion time. If you used a candle, extinguish it as a sign of the end of the devotions.

Note: This is only a suggested pattern. It will vary with your household's context and patterns. What works best for you? First thing in the morning? Over breakfast? Bed time? Be creative and flexible with how you practice and keep your devotions!

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday-Read Mark 6:17-29

Herod executes John the Baptist.

- What does Herod's promise to his daughter suggest about the thought we put into our promises?
- Why do some people feel threatened by the truth?

Monday-Read Mark 6:30-34

Jesus seeks time away.

- What message are people longing to hear?
- When is the last time you took time alone with God?

Tuesday-Read Mark 6:35-44

Jesus feeds the multitudes.

- What needs do you feel are too big to be met?
- What are the limitations of God's provision?

Wednesday-Read Mark 6:45-56

Jesus walks on water.

- What storm in your life causes you to fear?
- · What are Jesus' words to you today?

Thursday-Read Psalm 89:5-11

God rules the heavens and the sea.

- What belongs to you?
- · What belongs to God?

Friday-Read Mark 8:22-26

Jesus heals a man from blindness.

- In what way does Jesus give us spiritual sight?
- Why was the man not healed completely the first time?

Saturday-Read Mark 8:27-38

Jesus is misunderstood by his own disciples.

- How do we set our mind on divine rather than human things?
- Have you ever been ashamed to be a follower of Jesus?

Announcements

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

Speak Truth to Power

HELP WANTED. Volunteers are needed for the legislative letter-writing event after worship Sunday, Feb. 25. We want a few people to assist participants identify their Missouri representatives and addresses, locate supplies or help with other needs or questions. Basic wording for the prepared personal letters has been drafted by Cindy Changyit Levin. The bill we're focusing on (HB1708) relaxes current restrictions on where weapons can be carried and would repeal the current prohibition for churches and other places of worship. Please contact Nancy Litzinger if you'd like to help. For more info, contact Nancy Litzinger at nancywlitzinger@gmail.com.

Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue – February 6

The Anthropocene Reviewed by John Green

1st & 3rd Tuesday | 1:45pm fellowship | 2:00pm discussion <u>Zoom Link</u> (312) 626-6799; Meeting ID: 836 7061 7428; Passcode: 480007 TAD's new 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.

Youth Writing Workshop – Thursday, February 8

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!

Those interested can reach out to Gabriel R. gabriel@parkwayucc.org Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82501433824 Meeting ID: 825 0143 3824

Annual Youth Lock-In

February 9-10 | 5:00pm Friday – 8:00am Saturday | Parkway UCC Get ready! PUCC is bringing back lock-ins! For youth between 6th-12th grade, we'll be having loads of fun things to do during the event, from game night to a scavenger hunt, a movie, and even Valentine decorating! Dinner and breakfast will be provided — and also snacks of course! If you're interested, sign your youth up here: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0848A9A722A7FAC07-47115609-lockin Questions? gabriel@parkwayucc.org; 314-872-9330 ext. 101

Tuesday Evening Dialogue – February 13

2nd & 4th Tuesday | 6:00pm potluck | 7:00pm discussion | Heritage Rm Please join us in the Heritage Room as we finish up our discussion of The Book of Charlie. We will also be choosing our next book to read. 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. For more info, contact Helen Race raceh@att.net | (314) 401-4382

Go to Jerusalem: A Lenten Devotional

Sundays during Lent, 9-9:30 am | Heritage Room This Lent, imagine placing your hand in the hand of Jesus and journeying with him to Jerusalem.

In these daily devotions for the 40 days of Lent and Holy Week, pastor and scholar Mary Alice Mulligan leads us on a self-reflective journey to discover what it really means to follow Jesus. As you journey to Jerusalem, you'll reflect on the scriptures in which Jesus calls on his Disciples to leave everything and follow him, is baptized and announces his ministry, predicts his own death, clears the temple and pledges to rebuild it in three days, and proclaims God's love for all.

Entries begin with the darkness of Ash Wednesday and culminate with the glory of Easter morning. These concise entries include scripture, reflections, journaling prompts, suggested spiritual practices, and a prayer. Entries are undated, making this a perennial resource.

We'll be offering this devotional the Sunday prior to Ash Wednesday, Feb. 11. They will also be available upon request after Ash Wednesday.

Every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. in the Heritage Hall, we'll come together to reflect on how our journeys are going, the challenges we've faced, and kernels of truth gleaned as we grow closer to God, that we may support each other in covenantal fellowship together.

For more information, or would like a devotional mailed to you, please contact Gabriel Requadt gabriel@parkwayucc.org (314) 872-9330.

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 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 | (314) 330-0813

Post-Dispatch Trivia Night to Benefit STL 100 Neediest Cases

Fri, Feb. 16 from 6-9pm; Moolah Shrine - 12545 Fee Fee Rd | St. Louis, MO 63146 We need some trivia minded folks to fill out a table for the 100 Neediest Cases fundraiser. Trivia will focus on St. Louis history, music and general knowledge. Cash prize, silent auction, raffles, free beer, BYO food. \$35 per person. Contact PUCCer Dan Connors at <u>connorsd@aol.com</u> by today if interested.

For generations, the 100 Neediest Cases campaign has helped thousands of families and individuals during the holidays throughout the St. Louis region. The 100 Neediest Cases tradition began in the 1920s when the Christmas festival provided dinner and toys for those in need. United Way of Greater St. Louis and the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* have partnered for more than five decades, renaming the campaign 100 Neediest Cases in 1954. Each year, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch features 100 cases in the paper. Last year, annual donations to the campaign reached \$1.6 million, up from \$400 in 1922.

Speaker Series

Occasional opportunities after worship at 11:15am

February 18, 2024 "Poetry is Another World," by PUCCer Dottie Dwyer

With her third booking on the Speakers Series programming, Parkway church member Dottie Dwyer rightfully holds the record for the most appearances. She has taught us much about the depths of the wonders of poetry. We are fortunate to have both her spiritual and scholastic perspective on poetry. The speaker will appear live in the Heritage Room. There will be no remote access to this program.

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

MONTH OF GRACE + PRAYER (A Retreat in Everyday Life)

Make 2024 the year when your relationship with God blossomed by participating in the Month of Grace + Prayer retreat in everyday life. Pray on your own each day and meet privately with a spiritual companion for one hour, once per week for four consecutive weeks. This retreat is personalized to what you are hoping for, whether that is to make more time for prayer, to learn new ways to pray, to pray about a certain issue in your life, deepen your personal relationship with Jesus, or to receive whatever God is offering to you at this time. During the weekly sessions, your spiritual companion will listen with love and affirmation, offer questions that will lead you deeper into your prayer experiences and offer prayer suggestions for the coming week. Offered in person and completely virtually, all adults are welcome regardless of denomination or affiliation. Committed couples also have the option to participate as a couple.

The retreat will begin with a 90-minute group gathering (in person/virtual) of all participants on Sunday, Feb. 25. In person meetings with spiritual companions take place at church on Monday mornings, afternoons or evenings, and virtual meetings are scheduled on any day and time mutually convenient with the companion and participant. All participants will gather again in celebration on Sunday, March 24. For even more information or to register, visit: www.momentsofgraceandprayer.org or contact Clarence Heller clarenceheller@gmail.com; 314.258.9066. There is no registration fee, but retreatants are invited to share the costs of the retreat as they are able.

Testimonial

I participated in this retreat a few years ago. My prayer partner was Sister Pat. She was spiritual and encouraging. I kept a journal which I still return to from time to time. I highly recommend this opportunity. ~PUCCer

Gateway Open and Affirming Convocation

Saturday, March 2nd; 8:30am-3:00pm

Join area churches at Parkway UCC for an inspirational day of learning and providing support for the LGBTQIA Community. Participants can attend three workshops during the day following a worship service and keynote address. We encourage Parkway members to live up to their commitment from years ago when Parkway voted to become ONA and learn more about the movement and how we can be partners with the LGBTQAI community. The workshops are led by experienced individuals who are well-prepared. The worship service and keynote address are inspirational. This year, Rev. Dr. Katrina Roseboro-Marsh, UCC ONA Coalition's Executive Director, will give the Keynote address. We are encouraging Parkway members to attend, but also volunteer to assist in various roles. Thanks for letting us know if you can volunteer and where you would be willing to serve. For more info, contact Carol Cobb <u>ccjcobb@aol.com</u> or Greg Schmelig <u>greg_schmelig@hotmail.com</u>. Let's learn and love the LGBTQAI+ Community!

Prayer List Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Celebrations

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

Concerns

Kent Tallyn - healing from recent eye surgery.
Becca Palmgren - healing from surgery on January 11.
Sally Dodge's granddaughter - healing from tonsillectomy.
Jackie - receiving hospice care at home (sister of Nick McMillon).
Mike - cancer surgery complications (Lauren Yakel's soon father in-law).
Kate - medical tests for lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, more (Borgmann).
Pam - cancer diagnosis while receiving care for injuries from a fall.
Family/friends of Dave Emge - grieving and giving thanks (McDougall).
Family/friends of Pete Doyle - grieving and giving thanks (McKenzie).
The U.S. Southern Border Crisis and the need for humane and compassionate immigration reform.
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.
Kari Borgmann - her mom becoming more feeble, lack of awareness.
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).
Nelson Spencer - continued treatment for multiple issues (Svenson).
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).

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:Vallev 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] Glady 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: #136; 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.