

Transfiguration



PARKWAY

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ALL ACCEPTED, NO EXCEPTIONS



www.parkwayucc.org

February 11, 2024

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Limitless Love | Courageous Action | Spirited Inquiry

Purpose Statement

Parkway United Church of Christ strives to be an inclusive community embracing: spiritual nourishment, open-minded inquiry, courageous action, and interfaith partnerships to fulfill God's calling to create a just world for all.

Congregational Statement

Parkway United Church of Christ, with God's grace, seeks to be a congregation that includes all persons, regardless of race, ethnic, or socio—economic background while respecting differences of gender, marital status, age, sexual orientation, and mental and physical ability. We aspire to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God. We invite all to share in the life and leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities and blessings of participation in our open and affirming congregation.

PARKWAY UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

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Welcome *to* Parkway

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

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

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

Scripture Reader Evelyn Buretta

Flowers today donated by Ellie Svenson in memory of her husband, John. 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

02/14 Peggy Sieber

02/14 Krista Betz

02/14 Donna Ruzicka

02/15 Ivey Bowman

02/16 Harrison Tallyn

02/16 Sterling Tallyn

Anniversaries

02/13 Brian & Daphine Sableman

Transfiguration Sunday

Sunday, February 11th, 2024 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Meditation Faith is taking the first step. ~Martin Luther King, Jr.

Welcome and Passing the Peace of Christ

Prelude *At the Elevation* – Gilbert M. Martin, © Lorenze Publishing Co.

Introit *O Jesus, Very Light of Light* – by Howard Helvey, words from 6th century Vespers Hymn (sung by the Sanctuary Choir)

O Jesus, very Light of light, Our constant star in sin's deep night;
Now hear the prayers your people pray Throughout the world this holy day.

Welcome Song In This Very Room

1. In this ver-y room there's quite e-nough love for one like me,
2. In this ver-y room there's quite e-nough love for all of us,
3. In this ver-y room there's quite e-nough love for all the world,

and in this ver-y room there's quite e-nough joy for one like me;
and in this ver-y room there's quite e-nough joy for all of us;
and in this ver-y room there's quite e-nough joy for all the world;

and there's quite e-nough hope and quite e-nough power to chase a-way an-y
gloom, for Je-sus, Lord Je-sus, is in this ver-y room.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It features a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The lyrics are aligned with the vocal line. The score is divided into five systems, each with a vocal line and a piano line. The lyrics are: 1. In this ver-y room there's quite e-nough love for one like me, 2. In this ver-y room there's quite e-nough love for all of us, 3. In this ver-y room there's quite e-nough love for all the world, and in this ver-y room there's quite e-nough joy for one like me; and in this ver-y room there's quite e-nough joy for all of us; and in this ver-y room there's quite e-nough joy for all the world; and there's quite e-nough hope and quite e-nough power to chase a-way an-y gloom, for Je-sus, Lord Je-sus, is in this ver-y room.

Scripture 2Kings 2:2-15a | NRSV - New Revised Standard Version

Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?” And he said, “Yes, I know; keep silent.” Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know; be silent.” Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, “The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

He picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. He took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, saying, “Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?” When he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over. When the company of prophets who were at Jericho saw him at a distance, they declared, “The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha.”

***Call to Worship** based on words by David Bahr

One:	Something is drawing us together this morning
Many:	Something we can't name but which we experience in worship
One:	Some holy mystery we call God
Many:	Some sacred calling we hear in the life of Jesus
One:	Some indescribable hope we feel when we gather in the Spirit
Many:	May our experience of the Holy meet us where we are and prepare us to be greater love in the world.
One:	May we go from this place having been touched by God, led by Jesus and empowered by the Spirit.
Many:	We open ourselves to these layered and light-filled interactions.
All:	Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.

***Song** *O Jesus, You Were Born to Be*

(tune: *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*, hymn #8 in red hymnal)

O Jesus, you were born to be
God's gift to save humanity;
And one great day we're moving toward,
All life will bow and call you Lord!

You taught the people every day
As Rabbi, Teacher of the Way;
O Master, may we learn from you
To love both God and neighbor, too.

O Jesus, you're the living Way,
The Resurrection, God's new Day.
You give us hope and make us new;
How wondrous is our life in you!

***Opening Prayer** Madsion Shockley

O Holy One, on mountaintops and valley floors you reveal to us the light of your love. Our hearts desire is to bask in your amazing divine presence. With each encounter we are changed and transformed. Draw us nearer that we might receive a double portion of your Holy Spirit. Help us to live our lives as a reflection of your light. May we walk among our siblings as a blessing, bearing light into dark places, hope to displace despair, and love that casts out hate. 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.

Spirit of the living God move among us all;

Spirit of the living God make us one in love;

humble, caring, selfless, sharing—

Spirit of the living God fill our lives with love!

Children's Time Parents are invited to take children under the age of 3 to Room 01 (upper level) where one of our teachers will meet them at the door. Children from age 3 to 12th grade can follow our teachers down to Room 13 (lower level) for our Sunday School Opening Session. An offering will be passed around for children during that time for them to give as they feel called. For children in Room 01, parents please pick them up after worship. Children and youth can be met in the Gathering Space just outside the Sanctuary after worship, as the teachers will bring them back upstairs after class.

Blessing the Children *This Little Light of Mine*

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine (x3)

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Reception of New Members

Our church family is constantly changing. People come and go. Babies are born. Children grow up. People commit themselves to one another. Loved ones and friends among us come to the end of their lives. Individuals move into our community and church life. Others leave us, moving away to new places, new experiences, new opportunities.

It is with joy and gratitude that we welcome new members into our worship, work and witness today!

Questions of the Candidates

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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, and worship, sacraments, responsibilities and blessings of participation in our open and affirming congregation.

Question About Participation

Welcome and Reception

One:	Let us, the members of Parkway United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.
All:	We welcome you with joy into the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of Jesus.

Greeting of Christian Love

Sponsors: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of Parkway United Church of Christ, we extend to you the hand of Christian love, welcoming you into the family of this local church.

Prayer

Response *Blest Be the Tie that Binds*, v1

**Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love:
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.**

Scripture Mark 8:27-29 | NRSV

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah."

Song *One Day Jesus Climbed a Mountain*

(tune: *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*, hymn #37 in red hymnal)

**One day Jesus climbed a mountain to a place of prayer and rest.
Peter, James and John went with him to that lonely wilderness.
In a moment so amazing, Jesus shone with brightness blazing,
wrapped in glory, heaven-blessed.
Words could not contain the wonder of that most amazing sight.
Jesus' face was bright with splendor and his clothes dazzling white.
There appeared two others with him; Moses and Elijah met him
on that lonely mountain height.**

**Jesus talked there with the prophet and the bearer of the Law.
When his three disciples saw it, they were filled with joy and awe.
Peter told him, "Let's stay here. We can worship God and pray
here." Then a cloud came over all.
From that cloud a voice was saying, "This is my beloved son."
And the voice said, "Listen to him!" — to God's faithful chosen one.
While their plans were filled with glory, Christ was living out the
story of his prayer, "Thy will be done."**

Scripture Mark 9:2-8 | NRSV

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

Invitation to Prayer Cares Chorus #2215 | Blue Songbook

I cast all my cares up-on you, I
lay all of my bur-dens down at your feet, and
an-y-time that I don't know what to do, I will
cast all my cares up-on you.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon

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.]



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

Offering Interlude

Offertory Anthem *We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding* – by Carl P Daw, Jr. (1988), using the tune Hyfrydol by Rowland H. Prichard (1844)

We have come at Christ's own bidding
To this high and holy place,
Where we wait with hope and longing
For some token of God's grace.
Here we pray for new assurance
That our faith is not in vain.
Searching like those first disciples
For a sign both clear and plain.

Light breaks through our clouds and shadows,
Splendor bathes the flesh-joined word.
Moses and Elijah marvel as the heavenly voice is heard.
Eys and hearts behold with wonder
How the Law and Prophets meet;
Christ with garments drenched in brightness,
Stands transfigured and complete.

Strengthened by this glimpse of glory,
Fearful lest our faith decline,
We, like Peter, find it tempting
To remain and build a shrine.
But true worship gives us courage
To proclaim what we profess,
That our daily lives may prove us
People of the God we bless.

*Response

**Praise God for love we all may share,
Praise God for beauty everywhere,
Praise God for hope of good to be,
Praise God for truth that makes us free.**

*Prayer of Dedication

Carol Penner

Generous God, over and over your grace sustains us. Over and over your love provides for us. Over and over your arm steadies us. We give you these gifts, with gratitude and joy, thankful that you are God over all. Amen.

***Song** *Called As Partners in Christ's Service* #343 | Red Hymnal



1. Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, Called to min - is-tries of grace,
2. Christ's ex - am - ple, Christ's in - spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
3. Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, In a small or glob-al sense,
4. So God grant us for to - mor-row Ways to or - der hu - man life



We re-pond with deep com-mit-ment Fresh new lines of faith to trace.
Let us fol - low, nev - er fal-tering, Rec - on - cil - ing folk on earth.
Help us bear each oth - er's bur-dens, Break-ing down each wall or fence.
That sur-round each per - son's sor-row With a calm that con - quers strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, Side by side and friend with friend,
Men and wom-en, rich - er, poor-er, All God's peo - ple, young and old,
Words of com-fort, words of vi - sion, Words of chal-lenge, said with care,
Make us part-ners in our liv - ing, Our com - pas-sion to in - crease,



E - qual part - ners in our car-ing To ful - fill God's cho - sen end.
Blend-ing hu - man skills to - geth-er Gra - cious gifts from God un - fold.
Bring new power and strength for ac-tion, Make us col-leagues, free and fair.
Mes - sen - gers of faith, thus giv-ing Hope and con - fi - dence and peace.

***Benediction**

***God's Light Goes Forth**

***Music for Going Forth**

***Postlude** *Sing To the Lord!* – by Lani Smith, © Lorenze Publishing

LAST 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).

THIS WEEK

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

THE POINT

Jesus is revealed as the promised Messiah.

OLD TESTAMENT CONNECTIONS

There are over 2,000 direct quotations of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) in the New Testament. These are spread across the four Gospels, the Book of Acts, and the Epistles. Allusions, or references, to the Hebrew Bible appear in almost every book of the New Testament. The Hebrew Bible was the Scripture of the early Christians before the New Testament texts were written. Many of the references are used to explain who Jesus is and connect him to God's promises in the Hebrew Bible. In today's reading, Jesus is connected to Moses, who represents the law, and Elijah, who represents the prophets. This demonstrates that Jesus is the fulfillment of the law and the prophets.

STORY SUMMARY

Some think that Jesus is John the Baptist or a prophet. Even those who walk closely with Jesus are baffled by his identity. Jesus says that he is the Son of Man. Peter identifies Jesus as the Messiah. Later, clarification of Jesus' identity is made on a mountaintop during what is known as the transfiguration. Elijah and Moses appear and talk with Jesus. Jesus' garments shine brightly. Then a voice from a cloud announces that "This is my Son, the Beloved."

PRACTICE: PRAYER

Offer a prayer of thanks to God for confirming Jesus' identity. Repeat Mark 9:7b several times as part of your prayer.

NEXT WEEK

Jesus teaches his disciples about the cost of following him (Mark 10:17-31).

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- Mark 9:1-8

Jesus is identified as God's Son. In what ways does this passage help you identify Jesus?

MONDAY- Mark 9:9-13

Some wait for Elijah who has come and gone. What have you seen Jesus do in your life or the lives of others that you have not yet shared?

TUESDAY- Mark 9:14-29

Jesus heals a possessed child. Share with God what you believe and what you still find difficult to believe.

WEDNESDAY- Mark 9:30-37

The disciples want to know which one is the greatest. What does it mean to be a servant of all?

THURSDAY- Mark 9:38-50

Jesus teaches us to help other followers. What can you do to encourage or support another believer?

FRIDAY- Mark 10:1-12

Jesus' teaches about divorce. In what way is God's relationship to people like a marriage?

SATURDAY- Mark 10:13-16

Jesus blesses children. Do you think it is easier for a child to have faith than an adult? Why or why not?

Announcements

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

Speaker Series

Occasional opportunities after worship at 11:15am

TODAY - "Poetry is Another World," by PUCeR 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

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 20

The Anthropocene Reviewed by John Green

1st & 3rd Tuesday | 1:45pm fellowship | 2:00pm discussion

[Zoom Link](#) (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.

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: cbum@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 connorsd@aol.com by today if interested... *we have two more spots at the PUCc table.*

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.

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. ~PUCer

Annual St. Patrick's Dinner to Benefit Habitat for Humanity

March 09, 4:00-7:00pm | Samuel UCC 320 N. Forsyth Blvd., Clayton MO
Suggested \$20 donation, children \$6. EVERY CENT you give goes to Habitat for Humanity St. Louis. All meat and other food are either a gift from the Kern Meat Company or others. Corned beef and cabbage, Irish mashed potatoes, soda bread and a home made dessert buffet like no other. For more info, please contact Tom McKenzie at mckenzie1947@att.net.

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 ccjcoobb@aol.com or Greg Schmelig greg_schmelig@hotmail.com. Let's learn and love the LGBTQAI+ Community!

February 2024 Alzheimer's News

Scientists have uncovered a new potential diagnostic tool for recognizing early Alzheimer's that offers a non-invasive, commercially viable technique for early disease detection in clinical settings. One of the most useful signs for detecting early Alzheimer's is a blood protein called phosphorylated tau, or "p-tau." "Previous work has demonstrated that high levels of "p-tau 217" in the blood are found in people with Alzheimer's pathology in the brain," Tara Spires-Jones, president of the British Neuroscience Association and group leader at the UK Dementia Research Institute at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, said in a statement. "These findings show that a blood test can accurately detect the presence of the proteins that build up in the brain to cause Alzheimer's Disease", said Charles Marshall, a professor of clinical neurology at Queen Mary University of London. This diagnostic technique is already commercially available. "This is important because new drugs to treat Alzheimer's are coming to the market and already approved in the U.S. work best in people in early stages of Alzheimer's" said Spires-Jones. 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 PUC's Faith Outreach Ambassador with the Alzheimer's Association, Joyce Ruiz at joyceruiz7@gmail.com

Spring Friendship Dinners

Spring is Right around the corner, and so are Friendship Dinners. Sign up in The Gathering Space to be a host or guest. Hosts can also sign up to be a guest at another dinner.

We ask the host volunteers to indicate how many guests they will invite. The Friendship Dinner team will organize the dinners at the end of February, considering where people live.

Then, the host will call the guests on the date suggested. The host provides the main dishes, and guests bring a side dish or dessert. The host can also decide to host a Dutch dinner at a local restaurant. Questions? Contact Cindy Wessel cindywessel@yahoo.com.

Email Scam Alert

Important Notice: We understand that a fresh batch of scam/phish messages are being sent to PUCCErs. Ugh! No staff member of Parkway United Church of Christ will ever reach out via email, text or social media to ask for financial help. If you receive a request appearing to be from PUCCE staff requesting financial help or other personal information – or any suspicious message – please don't click on any links or engage with the sender. You may want to report this to your email service provider or the appropriate social media service. Block texts from scammers/phishers. Also, keep your antivirus/anti-malware software up to date for protection. Questions? Concerns? Need clarification? Reach out to our staff.

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 5th 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; 314-872-9330 x101

Prayer List

Wednesday, February 07, 2024

Celebrations

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

Concerns

Val and Doug Detjen - her surgery is this Thursday.

Family/friends of Dorothy Jo - grieving/giving thanks (Mary Akers).

Rex Enoch, former Heifer leader - at the end of his life (Barnes).

Kent Tallyn - healing from recent eye surgery.

Jackie - receiving hospice care at home (sister of Nick McMillon).

Mike - cancer surgery complications (Lauren Yakel's soon father in-law).

The continuing war in Ukraine.

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

US Southern Border Crisis and our immigration policies/practices.

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.

Mike Kolman - healing and discerning his future care (Svenson).

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).

Kate - medical tests for lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, more (Borgmann).

Pam - cancer diagnosis while receiving care for injuries from a fall.

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; 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 Wilcoxon - *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.

PUCF 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.