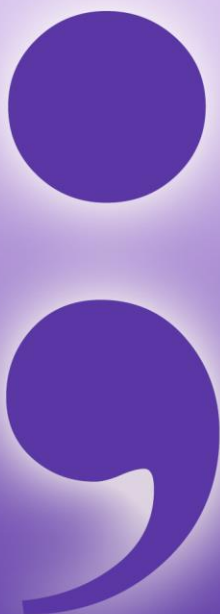


The
Punctuation
of **JESUS**
Jesus & the Rich Man





www.parkwayucc.org

February 18, 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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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 Michelle Brueggemann

Flowers given by Dexter Cameron's siblings on his Golden Birthday today. Please consider signing up to donate flowers on the large bulletin board in the Gathering Space!

Please consider signing up to read scripture in 2024:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60BoD4CA4AC23AB9-scripture1>

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

02/18 Dexter Cameron

02/18 Pat Owens

02/18 Bill Nolte

02/21 Jessica Connors

02/22 Charlotte Smith

02/24 Henry Weas

1st Sunday in Lent - Semicolon

Sunday, February 18th, 2024 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Prelude *Blessed Assurance* – A gospel arrangement of the familiar hymn tune by Phoebe Palmer Knapp (1873), © 2006 Hal Leonard Corporation

Welcome Let us know you are here!

Meditation *Great communication begins with connection.*
~Oprah Winfrey

Passing the Peace of Christ

“May the peace of Christ be with you.”

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

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Introit *Kyrie*

[Please follow the Cantor's directions]

Kyrie Eleison...Kyrie Eleison (Lord, have mercy)

Christe Eleison...Christe Eleison (Christ, have mercy)

Kyrie Eleison...Kyrie Eleison (Lord, have mercy)

Scripture Mark 1:9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.

And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.

He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

*Call to Worship

One:	This is the first Sunday of Lent
Many:	We have begun our journey to Holy Week and Easter.
One:	These days and weeks are before us as a gift.
Many:	We can be intentional about our relationship with Jesus along this way.
One:	Watch him. Listen to him. Follow him. Echo him.

Many:	We come alone and we come together. We draw close to the Spirit who helps us along.
One:	We turn and return to God, ourselves and one another.
Many:	We make this commitment to align ourselves with Jesus' words and ways.
One:	We will slow the pace of these days and weeks so that we will be present to what is unfolding in us and around us.
All:	Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.

***Song** *Come and Find the Quiet Center*

Unison



1. Come and find the qui-et cen-ter in the crowd-ed life we
 2. Si-lence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the
 3. In the Spir-it let us trav-el, o-pen to each oth-er's

lead, find the room for hope to en-ter, find the
 pace, God it is who speaks and names us, knows our
 pain, let our loves and fears un-rav-el, cel-e-

frame where we are freed: clear the cha-os and the
 be-ing, touch-es base, mak-ing space with-in our
 brate the space we gain: there's a place for deep-est

clut-ter, clear our eyes, that we can see all the
 think-ing, lift-ing shades to show the sun, rais-ing
 dream-ing, there's a time for heart to care, in the

things that real-ly mat-ter, be at peace, and sim-ply be.
 cour-age when we're shrink-ing, find-ing scope for faith be-gun.
 Spir-it's live-ly schem-ing there is al-ways room to spare!

Lenten Candles

The Punctuation of Jesus: What and How He Communicates

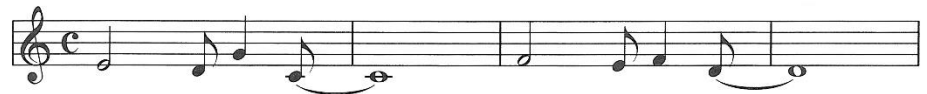
We lit seven candles on Ash Wednesday as we embarked on this Lenten journey. We want the light of the Holy to illumine our path as we seek to be the words and ways of Jesus. We commit to being more infused by the Spirit as we travel. Even as we know this is good and important work, we recognize that it isn't easy—and we will come upon the shadow side of humanity and some of our own unique darkness.

We extinguish one candle each time we gather for worship this season, acknowledging that this can be tough and exhausting work. As we approach the desertion and depletion of Good Friday, we also prepare ourselves for the dawn and love of Easter morning...the light that never goes out.

Prayer at the Candles

Holy One, send your spirit that we might find more clarity around what it is that Jesus is trying to share with us. He uses different forms of communication in an effort to reach each and every one of us - regardless of our learning styles, life experiences and ability to focus. He is eager and effective in his attempts. Help us to open our heart, mind, spirit and all of our senses - that we might be more available to receive, understand and pass along what he wants and needs us to know now. Amen.

Response *Here Are Our Hearts* by Susan Drake and Julie Jennings



Here are our hearts._____ Here are our hands._____



Here are our lives._____ Use them as You can._____ Show us those who hurt.



_____ Show us those in need._____ Show us how to serve.



_____ Teach us how to see._____

Children's Time For children under the age of 3, parents are invited to take them to Room 01 (upper level) where one of our teachers will meet them at the door. Children from age 3 to 5th grade can follow one of our teachers down to Room 12 (lower level), and youth from 6th to 12th grade can follow a teacher to Room 15 (also lower level). For children in Room 01, parents please pick them up after worship. Children and youth from age 3 thru high school can be met in the Gather Space just outside the Sanctuary after worship, as the teachers will bring them back upstairs after class.

Children's Anthem *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*
arr. BKL, from traditional song

I have decided to follow Jesus...
No turning back, no turning back.
Will you go with me, now as we follow...
No turning back, no turning back.

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

Scripture Mark 10:17-31

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before Jesus, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'" He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon

Invitation to Prayer *As the Deer*

As the deer pants for the wa-ter, so my soul longs af - ter
you. You a - lone are my heart's de - sire, and I
long to wor - ship you. You a - lone are my
strength, my shield; to you a - lone may my spir - it
yield. You a - lone are my heart's de -
sire, and I long to wor - ship 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.]

Mission Moment ^{2nd} Mile Lent/Easter

Heifer International | Lydia's House | Unleashing Potential | Eden Seminary



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 *Prayer* – by Kreutzer, arr. by Alexander Schreiner, © 1937 J. Fischer & Bro.

*Response *Make Me A Servant*

Make me a ser-vant, hum-ble and meek, Lord, let me
 lift up those who are weak. And may the prayer of my
 heart al-ways be: Make me a ser-vant, make me a
 ser-vant, make me a ser-vant to-day.

*Prayer of Dedication

Holy One, open our ears that we may hear the voices in our communities that are seeking justice, seeking to be heard and recognized. May we honor their hungers, thirsts and search for new life. Amen.

*Song of Parting *O Jesus I Have Promised*



1. O Je - sus, I have prom - ised To serve Thee to the end;
2. O let me feel Thee near me! The world is ev - er near;
3. O let me hear Thee speak - ing In ac - cents clear and still;
4. O Je - sus, Thou hast prom - ised To all who fol - low Thee



Be Thou for - ev - er near me, My Mas - ter and my friend;
I see the sights that daz - zle, The tempt - ing sounds I hear;
A - bove the storms of pas - sion, The mur - murs of self - will;
That where Thou art in glo - ry There shall Thy ser - vant be;



I shall not fear the bat - tle If Thou art by my side,
My foes are ev - er near me, A - round me and with - in;
O speak to re - as - sure me, To has - ten or con - trol;
And, Je - sus, I have prom - ised To serve Thee to the end;



Nor wan - der from the path - way If Thou wilt be my guide.
But, Je - sus, draw Thou near - er And shield my soul from sin.
O speak, and make me lis - ten, Thou guard - ian of my soul.
O give me grace to fol - low, My Mas - ter and my friend.

*Benediction

*God's Light Goes Forth

*Music for Going Forth *Hymn of Faith* – by C. W. Gluck, arr. by Alexander Schreiner, © 1937 J. Fischer & Bro.

LAST WEEK

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

THIS WEEK

Jesus tells a rich man to sell his possessions and give them to the poor (Mark 10:17–31).

THE POINT

Living in God's kingdom is not about possessions, but about our love toward others.

IMAGES OF GOD

We cannot see God, and God is infinitely bigger than we can comprehend. However, we can use the metaphors—descriptive images—in Scripture to reflect on what God is like. The images of God in the Bible connect God to things humans can be familiar with. None of these images can capture the fullness of God. In Scripture, God is compared to a nursing mother (Isaiah 49:15) and a comforting mother (Isaiah 66:13). God is also compared to a king (Psalm 47), a father (Luke 12:32), a dove (Matthew 3:16), a fire (Hebrews 12:29), a rock (Psalm 18:2); a judge (Psalm 75:7), the creator (Genesis 1–2), a shepherd (Psalm 80:1), a still small voice (1 Kings 19:11–13), a warrior (Exodus 15:3), the prince of peace (Isaiah 9:6), and a servant (Isaiah 53). God is so much more than we can imagine even with the help of these images.

STORY SUMMARY

A man comes to Jesus longing to know how he can enter into the fullness of life that Jesus represents and offers. Jesus treats his question with great respect, and gently tries to lead him into discipleship, since true life—now and in the age to come—only comes through following Jesus. Knowing the man's heart, Jesus encourages him to do the one thing he still needs to do in order to be free to follow Jesus: let go of his possessions. The man leaves, disappointed.

PRACTICE: SERVICE

It is difficult to serve when we are overly concerned about our own business. What can you put aside today to serve someone else?

NEXT WEEK

Jesus points out that the kingdom of God is one in which those on the margins are lifted up and those in power are brought down (Mark 10:32–52).

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? Bedtime? Be creative and flexible with how you practice and keep your devotions!

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

SUNDAY: Mark 10:17-22

Jesus tells a rich man how to follow him. What comes between you and God?

MONDAY: Exodus 20:12-16

We are reminded of commandments to live by. How is being mean to someone like breaking the "do not murder" commandment?

TUESDAY: Mark 10:23-27

Entering God's kingdom can be difficult for some. What makes it impossible for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God?

WEDNESDAY: 1 Timothy 6:6-10

The love of money is not the answer for happiness. What do you need in order to be content?

THURSDAY: Mark 10:28-31

Eternal life to come is worth giving up some things in the current life. What is the reward of sacrificing our plans in order to follow Jesus?

FRIDAY: Romans 8:18-25

Present suffering can lead to future glory. What do you hope for? What makes enduring today's sufferings bearable?

SATURDAY: Mark 10:32-34

Jesus travels the road to Jerusalem. Even though Jesus knew what was ahead for him, he kept loving and teaching. What does this tell us about Jesus?

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

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 latest 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.

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.

Every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. in the Heritage Room, 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 if you would like a devotional mailed to you, please contact Gabriel Requadt gabriel@parkwayucc.org (314) 872-9330.

PUCC Adventurers - Lunch at the Old Spaghetti Factory

Tuesday, February 20 | 11:30am | 17384 Chesterfield Airport Road, 63017
Come join the PUCC Adventurers as we head out to lunch at the Old Spaghetti Factory in Chesterfield, 17384 Chesterfield Airport Road, on Tuesday, February 20th. Meet at church at 11am if you'd like to carpool, or meet at 11:30am at the restaurant.

Please RSVP to Diane Tallyn (314) 910-2032 or diane_tallyn@hotmail.com or Kent Tallyn (314) 303-5606 or bsee74-pucc@yahoo.com. Please RSVP by February 19th to help us ensure that we have enough seating.

Speak Truth to Power COMING NEXT SUNDAY: an opportunity to connect with your Missouri Representative on a matter that would impact Parkway UCC. House Bill 1708 would remove restrictions on bringing weapons into churches and other houses of worship. In the Gathering Space after worship Feb. 25 there will be tables set up to address (and add to) sample letters plus envelopes and stamps. In addition to anyone wanting to express their thoughts with a letter, we need a few volunteers to help look up addresses for individual legislators. Corresponding with your state rep will only take a few minutes but is a proven way to get the attention of elected officials. Contact Nancy Litzinger, nancywlitzinger@gmail.com, if you'd like to help. Join us after worship next Sunday to alert your representative to your view on this pending legislation... then come back into the Sanctuary for --

Symbols in the Sanctuary

Sunday, February 25 | 11:15am following worship in the sanctuary
Having just celebrated the 25th Anniversary of our Sanctuary, the Church Council is pleased and grateful to have Dr Clint McCann, Evangelical Professor of Biblical Interpretation from Eden Seminary, with us next Sunday. He will offer the Mission Moment about Eden, one of our 2nd Mile Lent recipients, during worship and engage us in Biblical and Theological teaching and conversation about symbols in the sanctuary after worship. We believe our sanctuary is sacred space that is hospitable and inclusive. Over the years we have added the organ; stained glass windows; banners; US and Christian flags; prayer corner, perpetual candle and angel painting; a rocking chair; the AV Booth and monitors. Join us as we think more about our sanctuary.

Discover Turkish Cuisine

Sunday, February 25 | 1:30-3pm | 664 Lemay Ferry Rd, St. Louis, MO 63125
The Turkish American Society of Missouri (TASOM) is thrilled to inform you that they're continuing their monthly "Discover Turkish Cuisine" cooking classes. Please join them to cook and enjoy more delicious recipes.

The venue will be at the Turkish American Society of Missouri in the cooking classroom on the 2nd floor. Cost is \$25. There is limited capacity, so RSVP [here](#) by February 23rd. For more information contact TASOM (314) 461-3508; info@tasom.org

Tuesday Evening Dialogue – February 27

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

MONTH OF GRACE + PRAYER ~ A Retreat in Everyday Life

Make 2024 the year when your relationship with God blossoms 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, February 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

Family Iftar Dinners

As the Holy Month of Ramadan approaches, Turkish American Society of Missouri (TASOM) would like to invite you to attend a Home-Based Family Iftar Dinner with a local Muslim host family.

Fasting is practiced in many religious traditions and spiritual practices. We believe common traditions like shared meals are important opportunities for people from different faith communities to become closer to each other.

Ramadan is a holy month for Muslims that **starts on March 11th** this year. During Ramadan, Muslims fast from the break of dawn to sunset. This month represents a time of fasting, charity, prayer, and unity. Individuals from different religious and cultural communities come together to break fast and engage in friendly dialogue, resulting in a more comprehensive understanding and respect for other religious traditions.

Please fill out this form [here](#) by **February 25th**. Information about the host family, their address, phone number, and professional affiliation will be shared with you as soon as we finalize the family matching process. These dinners are free and welcome to anyone who would like to join, regardless of their faith. You do not need to fast to attend these meals.

This will be a wonderful experience with delightful food and companions to share a meal with.

Gateway Open and Affirming Convocation

Saturday, March 2nd; 8:30am-3:00pm here at Parkway UCC

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

AWOL: Adventurous Women Out Late

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

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

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

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 and Phishing Alert

Important Notice: We understand that a fresh batch of scam/phish messages are being sent to PUCers. 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 PUC 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

Looking for More Singers for PUC Sanctuary Choir

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

We're needing extra singers for Lent, Holy Week and Easter.

Please reach out to 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.

Prayer List

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Celebrations

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

Concerns

Val and Doug Detjen - doing well after Thursday's surgery.

Yakel Family as they grieve and give thanks for sister-in-law Chris.

Dennis Giever - healing momentum in rehab after a fall (Connors).

Tom Manor - prostate cancer; widowed 2023; parenting (McKenzie).

Family/friends of Rex Enoch, former Heifer leader - as they grieve and give thanks for him (Barnes).

Family/friends of Matt Albers - grieving/giving thanks (Connors).

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

Jaime LaSalle's mother, Sandy - liver cancer; moving to hospice.

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

Sharon Thiemann - undergoing cancer treatment (Svenson).

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.

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 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.

First Sunday in Lent

February 18, 2024

Psalm 25:1-10

God's Loving Paths

The psalmist asserts that God is with them all the way along the path. Sometimes, it is not so clear to see God's hand at work. To understand God's movement in your life, it can be helpful to create a spiritual timeline. Why wait? Use this paper to begin creation of your spiritual timeline right now.

When was the first time you remember sensing God's presence?

What names or images of God did you hold when you were younger that are different now?

List two or three times of illness, grief or despair when you experienced God with you.

List two or three times of gratitude or joy when you experienced God with you.

Looking back, was there a circumstance or common thread that is carried across all the memories you share here? Were you alone or with a group? Were you in a church building or in nature? Were you actively seeking God's presence, or did the Divine intrude unexpectedly into everyday life?

What does this exercise reveal about the presence of God in your life? Up to now? In this present moment? Into the future?