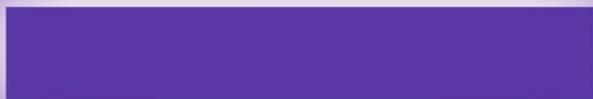


The
Punctuation
of
JESUS
The Widow's Gift





www.parkwayucc.org

March 10, 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

2841 North Ballas Road | St. Louis, MO 63131 | 314-872-9330 [p] | 314-872-9014 [f]
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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 Jackie Eiffert

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

Flowers given by Nancy Wessinger in honor of her mother who was born March 11. Please consider signing up to donate flowers on the large bulletin board in the Gathering Space!

Subscribe to our email lists Sign up at www.parkwayucc.org

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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

03/11 Jameson Tallyn
03/15 Jean Mueller
03/16 Avery Delannay
03/16 Christopher Haack

Anniversaries

03/13 Todd and Melanie Muchnick

4th Sunday *in* Lent – Hyphen

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

Prelude *Prelude on the hymn tune Cleveland (My Spirit on Thy Care)* – arr. by Albert Beck

Welcome Let us know you are here!

Meditation Never measure your generosity by what you give, but rather by what you have left. ~Fulton Sheen

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 12:38-44 | NRSV - New Revised Standard Version

As Jesus taught, he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

Jesus sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

*Call to Worship

One:	We are people of God, created to love.
Many:	We will love God with heart, soul, mind and strength.
One:	We are people of God determined to love.
Many:	We will love our neighbors and treat them as we would like to be treated.
One:	We love neither from a sense of obligation nor to gain popularity or favor.
Many:	We choose to love both the easy to love and the hard to love - because love imitates God's nature.

One:	For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment,
Many:	"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."
All:	Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.

***Song** *In Unity We Lift Our Song* #2221 | [Blue Hymnal](#)



1. In u - ni - ty we lift our song of grate-ful a - dor -
 2. For sto - ries told and told a - gain to ev - ery gen - er -
 3. For sa - cred scrip - tures hand - ed down, a bless - ed trust and
 4. For God our way, our bread, our rest, of all these gifts the



a - tion, for broth - ers brave and sis - ters strong. What
 a - tion, to give us strength in times of pain, to
 trea - sure. which give us hope when hope is gone and



cause for cel - e - bra - tion! For those whose faith - ful - ness
 give us con - so - la - tion. Our spir - its to re - vive
 make us weep with plea - sure. And when our eyes grow blind
 hand will yet de - liv - er. Who keeps us till the day



has kept us through dis - tress, who've shared with us our plight,
 to keep our dreams a - live, when we are far from home
 and death is close be - hind, we shall re - cite them still
 when night shall pass a - way, when hate and fear are gone



who've held us in the night, the bless - ed con - gre - ga - tion.
 and e - vil sea - sons come; how firm is our foun - da - tion.
 whose words our hearts can fill with hope be - yond all mea - sure.
 and all our work is done, and we shall sing for - ev - er.

Lenten Candles

We lit seven candles 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

The Punctuation of Jesus: *How and What He Communicates*

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.

Blessing the Children *This Little Light of Mine*
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Scripture Mark 12:38-44 | MSG - The Message

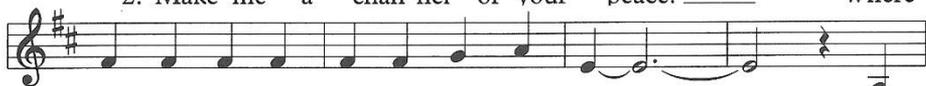
Jesus continued teaching. "Watch out for the religion scholars. They love to walk around in academic gowns, preening in the radiance of public flattery, basking in prominent positions, sitting at the head table at every church function. And all the time they are exploiting the weak and helpless. The longer their prayers, the worse they get. But they'll pay for it in the end." Sitting across from the offering box, Jesus was observing how the crowd tossed money in for the collection. Many of the rich were making large contributions. One poor widow came up and put in two small coins—a measly two cents. Jesus called his disciples over and said, "The truth is that this poor widow gave more to the collection than all the others put together. All the others gave what they'll never miss; she gave extravagantly what she couldn't afford—she gave her all."

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon



1. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. _____ Where
2. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. _____ Where



there is ha-tred, let me bring your love. _____ Where
there's de-spair in life, let me bring hope. _____ Where



there is in - ju - ry, your par - don, Lord, _____ and
there is dark - ness, _____ on - ly light, _____ and



where there's doubt, true faith in you. _____
where there's sad - ness, ev - er joy. _____

Prayers and 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.**

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

Anthem *We're a Fellowship of Believers* – by Jay Althouse, © MCMXCIX Alfred Publishing Co., Inc. All rights reserved.

We're a fellowship of believers;
we have come to God in prayer
to renew the faith and Christian love we share.
We're a fellowship of believers;
We are one great family.
Let us join our hearts in peace and harmony.

Our trust in God Almighty
is the rock on which we stand.
We congregate to worship hand-in-hand.

We're a fellowship of believers;
we have come to God in prayer
to renew the faith and Christian love we share.

Our trust in God Almighty
is the rock on which we stand.
We congregate to worship hand-in-hand.

We're a fellowship of believers;
we have come to God in prayer
to renew the faith and Christian love we share. Amen...

***Response** *Let All Things Now Living*

1. Let all things now liv - ing A song of thanks - giv - ing
To God our Cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise;
Who fash - ioned and made us, Pro - tect - ed and stayed us,
By guid - ing us on to the end of our days.
God's ban - ners are o'er us, Pure light goes be - fore us,
A pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night:
Till shad - ows have van - ished, All fear - ful - ness ban - ished,
As for - ward we trav - el from light in - to Light.

The musical score is written on ten staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The score concludes with a double bar line on the final staff.

*Prayer of Dedication

Quentin Chin

Holy One, we give in grateful thanksgiving for all that You have given us. In the upside down world of the gospel, we measure our wealth not by what we have, but what we can give away. Let us give away generously, in this offering, to bless Your church, Your people, Your creation. Amen.

*Song of Parting

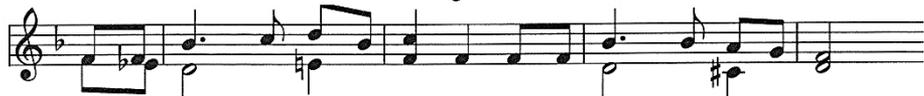
In the Bulb There is A Flower



1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;



in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
there's a dawn for ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.



In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,



un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

*Benediction

*God's Light Goes Forth

*Music for Going Forth

Oh, Bless the Lord, My Soul (based on the tune St. Thomas) – arr. by Albert Beck

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

LAST WEEK

Jesus arrives in Jerusalem and teaches in the temple. The religious leaders confront him with questions meant to trap him (Mark 12:1-12 [13-17]).

THIS WEEK

Jesus denounces the scribes who do not live out the commandments to love God and neighbor, then points out a widow who gives all she has as an example of one who does (Mark 12:28-44).

THE POINT

We respond to God's love and faithfulness by giving our lives to God.

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

Solomon, King David's son, built a beautiful temple in Jerusalem (see 1 Kings 5-9). The temple was a special place where the people could experience God's presence as they could nowhere else. It was where the Ark of the Covenant resided, the special holy box that contained the commandments God gave them in the wilderness. It was where they offered sacrifices in worship and where they offered prayers and sacrifices of thanksgiving. In 586 BCE, the Babylonians destroyed the temple. It lay in ruins for 70 years. When the temple was rebuilt, it was not as grand as the one built by Solomon, but it remained a special place and a sign of God's presence.

STORY SUMMARY

In the first part of the text, Jesus tells of the greatest commandment: that we must love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. He then states that the second greatest commandment is to love our neighbors. A widow with practically no resources approaches the treasury in the temple and places in it two small coins. Unlike those donating large amounts of money without much thought, she responds to God's love by giving all she has in love and service to God.

PRACTICE: WORSHIP

What activity can you pause this week to set aside time each day for worship? Commit to daily worship. Do not use this time to pray and ask for things. Spend the time praising God for who God is.

NEXT WEEK

Jesus leaves the public appearances behind and interacts with his inner circle in private, telling them about the end of the age (Mark 13:1-8, 24-37).

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 12:41-44

A widow gave all she had. Why was the widow's offering of more value than that of the others? What can you give of yourself in service to God?

MONDAY: Mark 13:1-8

There will be wars and rumors of wars. What can you do now so that people do not lead you astray in the future?

TUESDAY: Mark 13:9-13

Hard times are coming. How might the disciples have been comforted by these frightening words? Who around the world is persecuted for their faith?

WEDNESDAY: Mark 13:14-20

There can be confidence amidst hard times. What does it mean to know that God is with you even during difficult times?

THURSDAY: Daniel 11:29-35

Know that God will see you through hard times. What practices do have to help you know God?

FRIDAY: Mark 13:21-23

Knowing Jesus helps us identify false prophets. How do you identify Jesus? What Bible verses have you committed to memory?

SATURDAY: Daniel 7:9-14

The Son of Man has dominion. Who is the Ancient of Days? What do you look forward to the most about the coming kingdom?

Announcements

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

New Thing! Children Offering Envelopes

In an effort to be intentional about the spiritual cultivation of God's young, something PUCG is going to start practicing is providing offering envelopes on Sunday mornings at the table where the bulletins are for families to take for their children to put a tiny offering in; a dollar or even just a few coins. This money will go towards our fund for Heifer International that will be used to help give an animal to families in need! The kids are able to then give their envelope to an usher on their way down to Sunday School, or Gabriel can collect it during their Opening Session he does with them all as well.

Once we've collected enough money for an animal, we'll see if the kids would like to have it go towards that animal or wait to donate a bigger one. And for any animal we donate to from the kids' offerings, PUCG will match that, living into what I will call our Noah's Ark. Two by two we help the world!

For any questions about this, contact me, Gabriel gabriel@parkwayucc.org.

Speaker Series Occasional opportunities after worship at 11:15am “The Estate Sale; a Going-out-of-Business Event for a Person’s Life,” by Perrin Stifel.

Mar. 10 | 11:15 am | Heritage Room

The stuff you surround yourself with tells a story. It is a physical autobiography you write by living. Which is why people love estate sales. The estate sale, unlike its close relative the yard sale, is not a selective culling of possessions. It's a perusing of the stuff integral to a stranger's life. Fingering the wares allows you to commune with the departed. If you're paying attention, you can put together a story about who they were. If not, well then we have Parkway Church member Perrin Stifel, who can put the story together for you, since he is not only a veteran estate sales sage; he is also an award winning storyteller. There will be no remote access. For more information contact Richard Scherrer 90fivetpr@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.

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

Ramadan Iftar Dinners

As the Holy Month of Ramadan approaches, Turkish American Society of Missouri would like to invite you to attend our Community Iftar Dinner. Community Iftar Dinners bring individuals from different religious and cultural communities together to learn about the significance of the month of Ramadan in Islam, engage in friendly table conversation, and break the fast with an Iftar dinner. All faiths are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Iftar is the name for a community dinner held daily after sunset to mark the end of a day of fasting. Ramadan, the ninth month in the Muslim calendar, is a special time for the Muslim community. During the month of Ramadan, Muslims worldwide fast from dawn to sunset to achieve greater self-discipline, self-purification, and compassion for those less fortunate.

Note: Registrations will be closed once we reach full capacity, and a waitlist will be initiated. Act fast to secure your attendance and avoid missing out on this fantastic experience.

Where:

TASOM (Turkish American Society of Missouri)
664 Lemay Ferry Rd., St. Louis, MO 63125

When:

7:00 pm on Tue, March 19, 2024

RSVP [here](#) by March 12th, 2024

Cost: This is a free event, but donations are welcome

Tuesday Evening Dialogue – March 12

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

TED's current book selection is **The Book of Longings** by Sue Monk Kidd. This is a fictional novel about a young woman who becomes the wife of Jesus. Grounded in meticulous historical research and written with a reverential approach to Jesus's life that focuses on his humanity, *The Book of Longings* is an inspiring account of one woman's bold struggle to realize the passion and potential inside her, while living in a time, place, and culture devised to silence her.

We meet every second and fourth Tuesday at 6pm for potluck dinner and book discussion.

For more info, contact Helen Race raceh@att.net

Interfaith Iftar - Breaking Fast on Ramadan

Thursday, March 14 | 6:30pm | Here at PUC

Congregation Shaare Emeth, Parkway United Church of Christ and Turkish American Society of Missouri would like to invite you to attend our Intertwine Interfaith Iftar Dinner where our members will share a meal together.

This unique event aims to embrace diversity, promote interfaith dialogue, and share in the spirit of Ramadan. We will be breaking fast together, enjoying a delicious meal, and engaging in meaningful conversations.

Your presence will add to the richness of our gathering, making it an inclusive and memorable evening for all.

RSVP date has passed but you may be able to still sign-up. This is a free event but \$10 donation is suggested to cover the cost of the meal.

RSVP Link: <https://forms.gle/SZ3PGVurpdEwSPLQ6>

If you have difficulties registering or have any questions about this event, please reach us via email at Fatma Selcuk faithlopve97@gmail.com or Cagri Selcuk cagriselcuk89@gmail.com. For more info, contact Lisa Mason Lmason24@sbcglobal.net

Chili Cookoff/Brownie Smackdown

Sunday, March 17 | 11am-1pm | Fellowship Hall

LET'S GET READY TO RUMBLE!!!!

It's time for our annual Chili Cookoff/Brownie Smackdown!

The event will be held on Sunday, March 17th, St. Patrick's Day, following the worship service.

So, wear your green, bring your best chili and/or brownies, and with a wee bit o' luck, you will be the 2024 champion and receive the coveted trophy (ribbon for the brownies) and braggin' rights for the next year!

This is a fundraiser for the youth to raise money for their annual mission projects; so, come out, support our youth, and enjoy some fun, fellowship and good-natured competition!

Thanks for your support! We'll have sign-up sheets out soon! Contact Amy Yakel for more info: da_yakel@att.net

A Night at the Opera

Sunday, March 17 | 2:30pm | Parkway UCC

Join the Town & Country Symphony Orchestra and guest conductor Paul Davis in the more intimate setting of Parkway UCC for a time of operatic and orchestral favorites. Baritone Jacob Lassetter and soprano Karen Kanakis will perform a selection of arias and duets. In addition, the orchestra will present Haydn's "London" symphony and selections from Bruch's violin concerto. Please welcome the first of our three Rising Talents winners, violinist Charis Shing. Seating is open and tickets are not required.

Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue – March 19

Horse by Geraldine Brooks

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

[Zoom Link](#) (312) 626-6799; Meeting ID: 836 7061 7428; Passcode: 480007

Please join us with Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue as we read and discuss *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks. Join us for fellowship at 1:45, and book discussion from 2 - 3. We'll discuss the book in thirds, on March 5th, 19th, and April 2nd.

The book begins before the Civil War with the record-breaking thoroughbred Lexington and his enslaved groom, and ends in our current time period. Most of the details regarding Lexington's racing career are true. *Horse* is a novel of art and science, love and obsession, and our unfinished reckoning with racism. TAD would love to have you. For more info, contact Jackie Eiffert jeiffert2@gmail.com.

PUCC Adventurers at the Frank Lloyd Wright House

Thursday, March 21 | 10am-1pm | 120 N. Ballas Rd, Kirkwood, MO 63122

PUCC Adventurers will be touring the Frank Lloyd Wright House in Ebsworth Park in Kirkwood on Thursday, March 21st. The tour lasts 1 to 1 1/2 hours. They will meet at church at 9:30 for carpooling, or 10 at the Frank Lloyd House, 120 N. Ballas Road.

The RSVP date has passed, but if still interested, try contacting Jackie Eiffert, jeiffert2@gmail.com. The cost of the tour is \$20 per person, which can be paid in cash on the day of the tour. Whether or not you can come on the tour, afterwards, join us at Wan Fu Chinese Restaurant in Des Peres, 12033 Manchester Road.

Community Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 23 | 9:30am | Parkway UCC

Parkway UCC's Annual Easter Egg Hunt is around the corner! The event will begin with craft making at 9:30am, with the Easter egg hunt starting at 10am. There will be refreshments and pictures with the Easter Bunny!

We are also looking for plenty of volunteers for set-up and tear-down, as well as for donuts/coffee. We would appreciate donations of individually wrapped Easter candy as we prepare for the Community Easter Egg Hunt. Please drop in marked Easter Pail in the Gathering Space. Thank you very much!

For more info or if interested in volunteering, email:

Gabriel Requadt gabriel@parkwayucc.org.

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, 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.

Trans/Queer Youth Clothing Swap

Happening March 2024

Complete Harmony and partners are proud to announce the first annual Trans/Queer Youth Clothing and Community Swap. From family and financial barriers to mental health diagnoses, there are many reasons why our Trans/Queer youth are feeling disconnected and unseen. In response, we're creating a community space for these amazing youth to swap clothes and connect in the community. When Trans/Queer-identifying youth gather they have the power to validate, represent, connect, and celebrate who they each authentically are, as well as their community. Registration is required, the event and items are free for youth. Out of safety for everyone, **you must register [here](#)** to receive the event date, time, and location.

AWOL: Adventurous Women Out Late

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

New COVID Recommendations

From the PUCC COVID Team – The CDC recommends those older than 65 should get a 2nd dose of the latest vaccine, even if they had a dose last fall. Also, the CDC has dropped the 5-day isolation guidance for COVID-19, meaning people who test positive no longer need to routinely stay away from others for at least five days. Isolation measures are now more in line with other respiratory viruses (24-hour post-fever and improving symptoms).

PUCC is available to help people make vaccine appointments and can help with transportation. For more information, contact Kevin Cameron kevin@parkwayucc.org.

Looking for More Singers for PUCC Sanctuary Choir

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

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

Prayer List

Wednesday, March 06, 2024

Celebrations

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

Concerns

Ralf and Cindy Wessel - in Germany to grieve/give thanks for his brother Juergen.

Kevin and Rosanna Hogarty - healing from recent triple bypass surgery; home address 4434 Paragon Ct, Gig Harbor WA 98335.

Keith Mohl - stage 4 lung cancer (Mike's brother).

Family/friends of the four children and mother who died tragically in Ferguson last week (Alul - Burns).

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

Val and Doug Detjen - doing well after her surgery earlier this winter.

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

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

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

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).

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

Tom Manor - prostate cancer; widowed 2022; parenting (McKenzie).

Sharon Thiemann - undergoing cancer treatment (Svenson).

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 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.

March 10, 2024
Fourth Sunday in Lent
“No Matter What”
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Only a portion of Psalm 107 is suggested for the reading today by the lectionary committee. But the psalm in its entirety is worth studying. Each verse reminds the reader of those who have, in moments of extremity, called upon God. The suffering of refugees, the imprisoned, the hungry and enslaved is told, bookended by the miracle of God’s saving power that has visited those who suffered. What response can there be the overflowing gratitude of grateful hearts?

Today, many UCC congregations will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Like the psalmist generations ago, our hearts break at the suffering around us. And as humans capable of holding many emotions at once, we also feel deep gratitude in situations where we see that suffering has been alleviated. Like the psalmist in those moments, we join with multitudes in offering the overflowing gratitude of our hearts back to God.

Today, One Great Hour of Sharing is one way we can co-create with God in shaping a compassionate and just response to the suffering in our nation and world.

<https://www.ucc.org/giving/ways-to-give/our-churchs-wider-mission/one-great-hour-of-sharing/>

“One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery. Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women’s empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.”