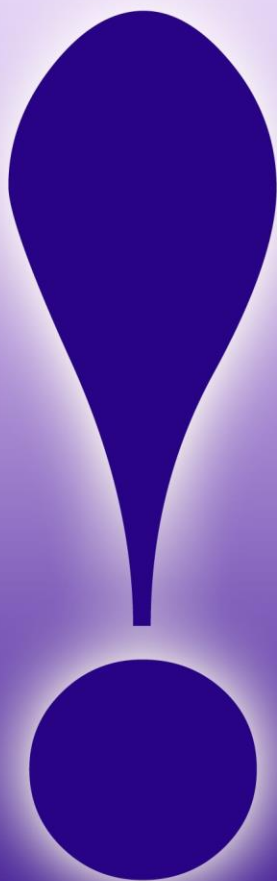


The
Punctuation
of
JESUS
Palm Sunday





www.parkwayucc.org

March 24, 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 consider signing up to read scripture in 2024: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0D4CA4AC23AB9-scripture1>

Flowers given by Sue Moellering in celebration of her mother's birthday.

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

03/26 Brad Brueggemann	03/28 Nate Goldstein
03/27 Douglas Detjen	03/28 Ryan Shelton
03/27 Julia Biest Forslund	03/29 Barbara Oehler
03/28 Ainsley Alul	03/29 Margaret Philip
03/28 Brayden Comens	03/30 Todd Muchnick
03/28 Grant Wolff	

Anniversaries

03/26 Deborah & Greg Carter
03/29 Donna & Roger Fauss

Palm Sunday!

Sunday, March 24, 2024 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Prelude *Festive Voluntary on “St. Theodulph”* – arr. by Arthur Frackenpohl, based on the tune St. Theodulph / Valet Will Ich Dir Geben by Melchior Teschner (1613)

Welcome Let us know you are here!

Meditation Doubt is a question mark; faith is an exclamation point. The most compelling, believable, realistic stories have included them both.
~Criss Jami

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

Choral Introit *Hosanna!* – by John Carter

Hosanna! Hosanna!

Blessed is he that comes in the name of our God!

Scripture Mark 11:1-11 | CEB — Common English Bible

When Jesus and his followers approached Jerusalem, they came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives. Jesus gave two disciples a task, saying to them, “Go into the village over there. As soon as you enter it, you will find tied up there a colt that no one has ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘Its master needs it, and he will send it back right away.’

They went and found a colt tied to a gate outside on the street, and they untied it. Some people standing around said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” They told them just what Jesus said, and they left them alone. They brought the colt to Jesus and threw their clothes upon it, and he sat on it.

Many people spread out their clothes on the road while others spread branches cut from the fields. Those in front of him and those following were shouting,

“*Hosanna! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest!*”

Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. After he looked around at everything, because it was already late in the evening, he returned to Bethany with the Twelve.

*Call to Worship

One:	Shouts of excitement and joy...
Many:	We can hardly believe that this light, healing, lively story and expression of God is coming into our city.
One:	Cloaks and clothes placed on the back of the donkey and on the ground...
Many:	We want to give a warm welcome and a soft landing to Jesus.
One:	Palm branches waving in the air and more tossed on the ground in front of the donkey...
Many:	How can we more fervently align ourselves with Jesus, his words and ways?
One:	We want to stay in this moment of inspiration and dream God's dreams...
Many:	We are <i>all in</i> on how we can make God's Kingdom a reality for our time.
One:	We continue to thank God, listen to Jesus and feel the momentum and mystery of the Holy Spirit this week...
All:	Let us worship our God together - Creator, Christ and Spirit!

*Song *All Glory, Laud and Honor*

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To Thee, Re-deem-er, King!

To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho - san - nas ring. *Fine*

1. Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, Thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
 2. The peo - ple of the He - brews With palms be - fore Thee went;
 3. To Thee, be - fore Thy pas - sion, They sang their hymns of praise;
 4. Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; Ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Repeat Refrain

Who in the Lord's name com - est, The King and bless-ed One.
 Our praise and prayers and an - thems Be - fore Thee we pre - sent.
 To Thee, now high ex - alt - ed, Our mel - o - dy we raise.
 Who in all good de - light - est, Thou good and gra-cious King!

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.

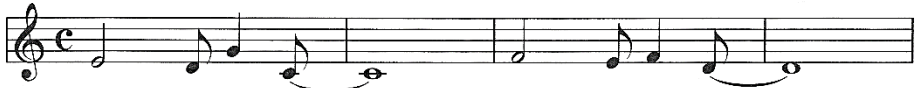
We have extinguished one candle each time we have gathered for worship this season, acknowledging that this can be tough and exhausting work. As we approach the desertion and depletion of Good Friday later this week, we also prepare ourselves for the dawn and love of Easter morning...the light that never 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 *Weave*

Weave, weave, weave us together
Weave us together in unity and love,
Weave, weave, weave us together
Weave us together, together in love.

Scripture Mark 11:1-11 | MSG — The Message

When they were nearing Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany on Mount Olives, he sent off two of the disciples with instructions: "Go to the village across from you. As soon as you enter, you'll find a colt tethered, one that has never yet been ridden. Untie it and bring it. If anyone asks, 'What are you doing?' say, 'The Master needs him, and will return him right away.'"

They went and found a colt tied to a door at the street corner and untied it. Some of those standing there said, "What are you doing untying that colt?" The disciples replied exactly as Jesus had instructed them, and the people let them alone. They brought the colt to Jesus, spread their coats on it, and he mounted.

The people gave him a wonderful welcome, some throwing their coats on the street, others spreading out rushes they had cut in the fields. Running ahead and following after, they were calling out,

Hosanna!

Blessed is he who comes in God's name!

Blessed the coming kingdom of our father David!

Hosanna in highest heaven!

Jesus entered Jerusalem, then entered the Temple. He looked around, taking it all in. But by now it was late, so he went back to Bethany with the Twelve.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying 2193

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray - ing, _____

Lord, send your Spir-it in this place; _____

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray - ing, _____ send us

love, send us power, send us grace. _____

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

Offertory Anthem *They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love* – accomp. arr.
by Tedd Smith, for the popular hymn by Peter Scholtes

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:

Refrain:

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land: (Refrain)

We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
And we'll guard human dignity and save human pride: (Refrain)

All praise to Creator, from whom all things come,
And all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one: (Refrain)

***Response**

**Praise God who gives us hearts to care.
Praise God who gives us gifts to share.
Praise God for helping us to give.
So, others in the world might live. Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Holy One, as we continue to experience the joy of Jesus coming into the city and our lives, we are moved by his expressions of love. We are caught up in the spirit of that love and will model ourselves after him - that there will be more courageous compassion, other-focused living and widespread justice in the world. Amen.

*Song of Parting *Lord of All Hopefulness* #2197 blue songbook



1. Lord of all hope-ful-ness, Lord of all joy, whose
2. Lord of all ea-ger-ness, Lord of all faith, whose
3. Lord of all kind-li-ness, Lord of all grace, your
4. Lord of all gen-tle-ness, Lord of all calm, whose



trust, ev-er child-like, no cares could de-stroy: Be
strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe: Be
hands swift to wel-come, your arms to em-brace: Be
voice is con-tent-ment, whose pres-ence is balm: Be



there at our wak-ing, and give us, we pray, your
there at our la-bors, and give us, we pray, your
there at our hom-ing, and give us, we pray, your
there at our sleep-ing, and give us, we pray, your



bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

*Benediction

*God's Light Goes Forth

***Music for Going Forth** *Come, Sweet Rest* – by J. S. Bach (1685-1750), arr.
by Marha Powell Setchell

Holy Week

Worship with us during Holy Week – *in person and Facebook Live*

Maundy Thursday | March 28 | 7pm in the Sanctuary

Good Friday | March 29 | Prayer Service at noon in the Historic Sanctuary

Good Friday | March 29 | 7pm in the Sanctuary

Easter Vigil | Friday night through Easter morning. Sign up for one hour

Easter Sunrise | 6:15am | Elm Lawn Cemetery behind Historic Sanctuary

Easter Morning Worship | March 31 | 10am in the Sanctuary

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

LAST 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).

THIS WEEK

Jesus enters Jerusalem triumphantly (Mark 11:1-11).

THE POINT

We can celebrate Jesus, the crucified and risen king.

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

It is important to understand the original context of Scripture. It is also important to recognize how our own context influences our interpretation of Scripture. The books of the Bible were written in specific time periods in specific cultures. The biblical writers wrote for an audience that shared their knowledge of the culture and customs of the day. We live nearly 2,000 years after the most recent biblical text was written, so it is important to try to understand the Bible in its original context to better understand the message. By learning more about the people, places, and times of the writing, the meaning becomes more clear.

STORY SUMMARY

Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a colt as people shout “Hosanna!” Later that week, Jesus is led out to be executed. He is crucified, mocked, cries out to God, drinks sour wine, and then dies. The temple curtain is torn, and a centurion says that Jesus was God’s Son. Three days later, several women go to Jesus’ tomb and discover the tomb is empty. A young man tells them that Jesus has been raised and that they should go tell his disciples to meet him in Galilee. They flee in terror.

PRACTICE: WORSHIP

How does the fact that Jesus rose from the dead impact your life? Worship God by expressing gratitude for that impact.

NEXT WEEK

Jesus is tried and crucified. However, Jesus is victorious as he is risen from the dead three days later (Mark 15:16-39; 16:1-8).

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 11:1-11

Jesus is greeted by a welcoming crowd. What does Jesus' choice of transportation reveal about him?

MONDAY: Deuteronomy 15:7-11

We should open our hand to people in poverty. What can you do this week to help people in need?

TUESDAY: Mark 14:10-21

Passover preparations are made. How is Jesus like the Passover lamb? Why was Judas willing to accept money to betray Jesus?

WEDNESDAY: Mark 14:22-31

Jesus and the disciples share the Last Supper. In what ways do we fail to see ourselves for who we really are?

THURSDAY: Mark 14:32-42

Jesus prays in Gethsemane. Have you ever fallen asleep or daydreamed during prayer?

FRIDAY: Mark 15:16-39

Jesus dies on a cross. In what ways do people today mock Jesus? Why did Jesus feel that God had forsaken him?

SATURDAY: Mark 15:40-47

Jesus is placed in the tomb. What was done to ensure Jesus Body would stay in the grave? What happens to hope when situations turn dire?

Announcements

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

Tuesday Evening Dialogue – March 26

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

Easter Prayer Vigil ~ March 29-31

Our Annual Easter Prayer Vigil begins Good Friday Night and continues through our Easter Sunrise Service. Please sign up here to be in prayer for at least one of the 36 hours at your home - not at church. If you would like some suggestions about what to do during your hour, refer to this booklet [here!](#)

Church Easter Egg Hunt after Worship next Sunday

Parkway UCC's Annual Church Easter Egg Hunt is around the corner! For more info or volunteering: Gabriel Requadt gabriel@parkwayucc.org.

Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue – April 2

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.

Post-Dispatch Trivia Night to Benefit STL 100 Neediest Cases

Fri, April 5 from 6-9pm; Moolah Shrine | 2545 Fee Fee Rd, St. Louis, MO 63146

The Post-Dispatch is back, folks! 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 if interested. One spot remaining!

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: cbum@charter.net

Speaker Series Occasional opportunities after worship at 11:15am

“Fifty Plants that Changed the Course of History,” by Carol Gravens

April 07 | 11:15 am | Heritage Room

Carol Gravens, now retired from a professional career as a microbiologist, is an Advanced Level St. Louis Master Gardener. She became a Master Naturalist in 2007 and has an AAS in Horticulture from STLCC, Meramec. She has volunteered at the Kemper Center for Home Gardening at the Plant Doctor desk, and the MBG orchid range.

Her presentation will discuss the remarkable interconnection of plants and human existence; that includes the obvious ones like food, shelter, fuel, medicines, clothing, oxygen, and carbon dioxide. But there is more. Carol focuses her talk on a subset of the 50 plants that are detailed in Bill Laws’ book, *Fifty Plants that Changed the Course of History*. For more information contact Richard Scherrer 90fivetpr@gmail.com.

Looking for More Singers for PUCS 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

Children Offering Envelopes

PUCC provides 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, PUCC 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.

Vacation Bible School

June 3-7 | 9am-12pm | Parkway UCC

What is justice?

[God] has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8)

For VBS this year, we're going to be digging into the concept of justice that we see in the Bible. This unit breaks down this complicated topic into easily understood pieces with a focus both on the smaller (personal) and larger (systemic) aspects of justice. Register [here](#)! It will be \$25 for the first camper and \$20 for additional campers. For more information contact Gabriel R. gabriel@parkwayucc.org 314—872-9330 ext. 101

Join Us for a Fun Day of Building with Habitat for Humanity!

Saturday, June 22

We're excited to team up with Habitat for Humanity for our annual Parkway Workday, but the location is still to be determined. We're looking for 10 enthusiastic volunteers to join us from 7:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Whether you're a master builder or a complete novice, we welcome you with open arms! Habitat will provide all the tools and supplies you need. Just remember to wear your sturdy work clothes, closed shoes, and pack a lunch.

Did you know? Parkway has been part of this wonderful initiative for about 40 years. In fact, we played a significant role in introducing Habitat to St. Louis. Interested in joining us? Contact Tom McKenzie to get on the notification list: mckenzie1947@att.net

Your generosity can make a difference! If you'd like to support us, feel free to send your donations to: Habitat For Humanity St. Louis 3830 South Grand Blvd St. Louis, MO 63118

Let's build something amazing together!

Holy Week

This is the first day of Holy Week. Each day of this week is an opportunity to draw closer to Christ, as we mark, with him, his walk to the cross. Each day you are given a very short prayer. Take this with you and keep it somewhere where you can refer to it often like in your bag or in your car. Tape them to a mirror or to the refrigerator.

Be mindful of this Holy Week, even as you go about your life.

Palm Sunday: On this day, Jesus enters Jerusalem.

Jesus, today let me lift my voice in praise of you.

Monday: On this day, Jesus heals and teaches.

Jesus, today show me ways that I can follow you by teaching or healing.

Tuesday: On this day, Jesus visits the temple and turns the tables.

Jesus, today speak through me to dismantle systems of injustice and economic oppression.

Wednesday: Scripture says nothing about what Jesus does on this day.

Jesus, today create in me a still heart as I breathe into the deep quiet of your love.

Thursday: Jesus gathers to share one last meal with his friends.

Jesus, today let me show hospitality to all.

Friday: Jesus is crucified.

Jesus, today give me courage to follow you even to places of death or despair.

Saturday: Jesus is in the tomb.

Jesus, today grant me hope for resurrection even in desolation.

Sunday: Christ is risen!

Jesus, today help me find you in unexpected people or places.

2nd Mile Lent & Easter 2024

Lydia's House lydiashouse.org

Lydia's House offers secure housing and immediate community for women and children who are victims of domestic violence. We have 50 confidentially located, fully furnished apartments where families can find refuge, safety and support. Our transitional housing is one of the largest in the country and the only program of its kind in eastern Missouri.

Each family at Lydia's House is provided an advocate to help guide them through the process of recovering from abuse. All family members are connected to support services, including individual and group resources, to help them build the skills that are necessary not only for surviving but thriving in the wake of trauma.

UP - *Unleashing Potential* [formerly Neighborhood Houses] upstl.org
Neighborhood Houses has loved children in St Louis and helped resilient families to be even more so since 1913.

Early Childhood Education: Caroline Mission is a licensed and accredited Early Childhood facility operated by UP.

After School Programs: UP is the #1 provider of before and after school programming in the St Louis Public Schools... fun & creative activities, homework assistance, character education, cultural awareness, health & fitness focus, arts & crafts, supervised recreation, and much more!

GeoQuest Program: expands access to education, hands-on learning, and skill training in geospatial technology for children in K-8 grades.

Heifer International heifer.org

Heifer International does more than put food in the mouths of hungry people. Heifer helps people to feed themselves. The goal of every Heifer project is sustainability -- project partners achieving self-reliance. And year after year, as partner families "pass on the gift" of knowledge and one or more of their animals' offspring to others in need, they become links in a network of hope, dignity and self-reliance that helps hundreds of others care for themselves.

Eden Seminary eden.edu

Eden Theological Seminary is a graduate school preparing people for ordained Christian ministry. One of the six seminaries of the United Church of Christ, Eden is a community that seeks God's justice and peace in the world.

Eden was established in 1850. It was established because a European education was not adequate to prepare pastors for Evangelical churches on the North American frontier. From its beginning, Eden has embodied an ecumenical spirit. Its first graduating class included six Evangelicals as well as a Methodist and a Mennonite.

Today, students from many different denominations are engaged in theological education at Eden as it remains committed to educating faithful and effective leaders for church and society. The seminary counts among its

Please be sure to clearly mark your financial gifts '2nd Mile' throughout the season of Lent, Holy Week and Easter so that these four mission partners can receive evenly from our generosity.

Prayer List

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Celebrations

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

Ramadan Mubarak to our Muslim family and friends!

Concerns

Lana Biondo and family as they grieve/give thanks for her mother.

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

Barbara W - in need of healing (Reinhardt).

Family and friends of Betty Spieler - grieving and giving thanks.

<https://www.schrader.com/obituary/8894306>

The people of Philadelphia - reeling from deadly violence over wkend

The continuing war in Ukraine.

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

Safety and Peace for the people of Haiti.

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.

Kevin and Rosanna Hogarty - healing from his recent triple bypass.

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 3 (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)

Sherie & 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; #126; Creve Coeur, MO 63141; 314-434-5900 [birthdate: April 7]

Other

Jones-Goldstein Family as they grow - baby girl due in October!

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 24, 2024
Palm / Passion Sunday
Sixth Sunday in Lent
“Into Jerusalem”
Mark 14:1 - 15:47

Today is Palm Sunday, the first day of the Holy Week that culminates in the passion and resurrection of Christ. The path of Holy Week is strewn with symbols to remind us of how Christ’s ministry, mission, suffering and new life continues to be reflected in the ministry, mission and suffering of God’s people today.

Take some time to sketch, journal about or pray the following words, visual symbols of this time. Which already have meaning to you? Which do you want to find out more about, either through reading and research or in contemplation and prayer? Which do you need to set aside as less meaningful for you, for this season at least?

- Donkey
- Beautiful alabaster jar
- Crown of thorns
- Women disciples
- Cross
- Men disciples
- Loincloth
- Chalice
- Overturned table
- Robe
- Rock
- Washing bowl
- Bread and Cup
- Place of the skull
- Torn cloth
- Blood
- Coins
- Sponge
- Rooster
- Evening
- Morning
- Tomb
- Angel