

# *Christ is Risen*

*The  
Punctuation  
of* **JESUS ...**



**PARKWAY**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



www.parkwayucc.org

March 31, 2024

## Contents

- 3 Birthdays and Anniversaries
- 4 10:00am Worship
- 14 Announcements
- 19 Prayer List

## Limitless Love | Courageous Action | Spirited Inquiry

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### Purpose Statement

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

### Congregational Statement

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

## PARKWAY UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

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# Welcome *to* Parkway

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

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

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

**Scripture Reader** Jackie Eiffert. Consider signing up to read scripture in 2024: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0D4CA4AC23AB9-scripture1>

**Flowers** given by Meera Williams celebrating her son Matthew's birthday. Lilies and ferns are given in memory and gratitude for family and friends.

**Subscribe to our email lists** Sign up at [www.parkwayucc.org](http://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](http://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

03/31 Katie Wolff  
03/31 Matthew Williams  
04/01 Klover Bowman  
04/01 Liz Lyons  
04/02 Kevin Rauscher  
04/02 Jennifer Woodson  
04/04 Jennifer Krpan  
04/06 Florence Simonson

## Anniversaries

04/04 Mike and Peggy Mohl

# Easter Sunday

Sunday, March 31, 2024 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

**Flowering the Cross** Please place your flower in the cross anytime now or during the Prelude or Welcome Song.

**Prelude** *Fanfare on Jesus Christ Is Risen Today* – arr. by John A. Behnke (b. 1953), based on Easter Hymn, from *Lyra Davidica*, London, 1708

**Welcome** Let us know you are here!

**Meditation** An ellipsis is a giant ocean of possibilities. ~Jami Attenberg

## Easter Proclamation

One: Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

Many: **Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## Passing the Peace of Christ

“May the peace of Christ be with you.”

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

**Introit** *Christ The Lord is Ris'n Again!* – setting by Michael Burkhardt, Based on *Christ Ist Erstanden* by J. Klug, from *Geistliche Lieder* (1533)

Christ the Lord is ris'n again, Christ has broken ev'ry chain.

Hark, the angels shout for joy, singing ever more on high: Alleluia!

He who slumbered in the grave is exalted now to save;

Now through all the world it rings that the Lamb is King of Kings. Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Now through all the world it rings that the Lamb is King of Kings. Alleluia!

## Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

**Choral Hymn Introduction** *Dramatic Call to Worship*

Keith Borgmann, valve trumbone

On this, a holy day of days,

to God your hearts and voices raise,

In laud and jubilee and praise.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

## Opening Hymn #123—Jesus Christ is Risen Today | Red Hymnal



1. Je - sus Christ is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
3. But the pains which He en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!  
4. Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



Our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Un - to Christ, our heav - en - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!  
Praise e - ter - nal as God's love; Al - le - lu - ia!



Who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Now a - bove the sky He's King, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Praise our God, ye heav - en - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



Suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Cre - a - tor, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

### Scripture Isaiah 25:6-9 | NRSV – New Revised Standard Version

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear. And God will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; God will swallow up death for ever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of the people will be taken away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited and waited so that God might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in God's salvation.

### \*Call to Worship

One: This is the day we have been waiting for, counting on, eager to embrace.

Many: **It has been a long time coming - prophecies, delays, distractions, detours.**

One: *This is the day!* All the things Jesus told us were true. He is our way, our truth, our life.

**Many:** Jesus is so many things - including a name he was called at birth, *Emmanuel*, which means ‘God with us’.

One: We are swept up in the good news of today. Nothing can hold God back. The Spirit is helping us to grasp the intensity and inspiration of the resurrection.

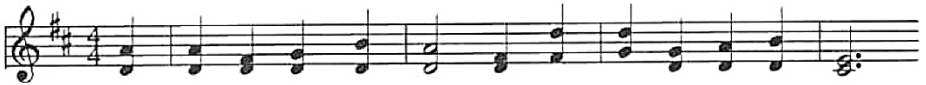
**Many:** What happens next is up to us. We determine where to go with this news now. It can change the world.

One: This is a turning point. It is a new day, a new era - if we allow it to be so by helping usher it in.

**Many:** What we choose to do and say will become the new reality. We will go from here to share love, peace and reassurances beyond compare.

**All:** Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.

**\*Hymn** *The Day of Resurrection #118* | Red Hymnal



1. The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad;  
2. Our hearts be pure from e - vil, That we may see a - right  
3. Now let the heavens be joy - ful, Let earth the song be - gin,



The Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, The Pass - o - ver of God.  
The Lord in rays e - ter - nal Of res - ur - rec - tion light;  
Let the round world keep tri - umph, And all that is there - in;



From death to life e - ter - nal, From this world to the sky,  
And, lis - tening to His ac - cents, May hear, so calm and plain,  
Let all things seen and un - seen Their notes of glad - ness blend,



Our Christ hath brought us o - ver With hymns of vic - to - ry.  
His own “All hail!” and, hear - ing, May raise the vic - tor strain.  
For Christ the Lord is ris - en, Our joy that hath no end.

## Lenten Candles

We lit seven candles on Ash Wednesday as we began this Lenten journey. We wanted the light of the Holy to illumine our path as we sought to be the words and ways of Jesus.

We committed to being more infused by the Spirit as we traveled. Even as we knew this is good and important work, we recognized that it isn't easy—

and that we would come upon the shadow side of humanity and some of our own unique darkness.

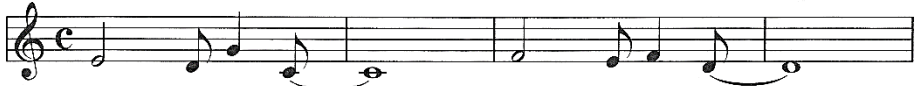
We extinguished one candle each time we gathered for worship in Lent, acknowledging that this can be tough and exhausting work. As we approached the desertion and depletion of Good Friday, we also prepared ourselves for the dawn and love of this Easter morning...the light that never goes out.

## 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 has been 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** Children and Youth are invited to Rm. 13 on the Lower Level following this Children's Time for a special Easter Sunday School. Afterwards, we will enjoy an Easter Egg Hunt. We ask parents to pick up their children in Fellowship Hall and go with them on the hunt. There will be appropriate eggs for toddlers in a separate area from the older children. We will wait to start the hunt until parents are with their children. Happy Easter everyone!

**Blessing the Children** *Jesus Loves the Little Children*  
**Jesus loves the little children, All the children of the world.  
Every child in every land, Jesus holds them by the hand.  
Jesus loves the little children of the world.**

**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 stand next to the communion table before the end of the closing hymn. There are offering plates in the Gathering Space outside the sanctuary too. Thank you for your generosity.

[www.parkwayucc.org/giving](http://www.parkwayucc.org/giving)

**Offertory Anthem** *Crown Him With Many Crowns* – arr. by John Purifoy, based on “Diademata” by George J. Elvey, words by Matthew Bridges and Godfrey Thring / also Trumpet Tune by Henry Purcell, words by John Purifoy

Crown Him with many crowns, the lamb upon His throne.  
Hark! How the heav’nly anthem drowns all music but its own.  
Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee,  
And hail Him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown Him Lord of life and Lord of love,  
His glories sing, who died and rose on high.  
Crown Him Lord of life and Lord of peace,  
Who died and rose on high and lives that death may die.

Crown Him Lord, the Lord of peace and love.  
Crown Him Lord, who lives and reigns above.  
Wake, my soul, and sing of Him who died and rose for thee.  
Hail Him as thy King thro’ all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of life, who triumphed o’er the grave,  
And rose victorious in the strife for those He came to save.  
His glories now we sing, who died and rose on high,  
Who died, eternal life to bring and lives that death may die.

Crown him Lord of life, and Lord of love,  
His glories sing, who died and rose on high.  
Crown him Lord of life and Lord of peace,  
Who died and rose on high and lives that death may die.

### **\*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** Carol Penner

**Holy One of resurrection and reassurance, we offer our gifts alongside our alleluias! We extend our hands, feet, and voices to take the celebration out of this sacred place into a world that desperately needs hope. May our energy, excitement, and power resonate so profoundly that the ground shakes once again, lightning flashes, and people witness in us Your irrepressible love and the triumph of light over darkness. In the name and awe of the risen Christ, we pray. Amen.**

### **Scripture** John 20:1-18 | CEB – Common English Bible

Early in the morning of the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. She ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don’t know where they’ve put him.” Peter and the other disciple left to go to the tomb. They were running together, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and was the first to arrive at the tomb. Bending down to take a look, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he didn’t go in. Following him, Simon Peter entered the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying there. He also saw the face cloth that had been on Jesus’ head. It wasn’t with the other clothes but was folded up in its own place. Then the other disciple, the one who arrived at the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed.

They didn’t yet understand the scripture that Jesus must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to the place where they were staying.

Mary stood outside near the tomb, crying. As she cried, she bent down to look into the tomb. She saw two angels dressed in white, seated where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and one at the foot. The angels asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?”

She replied, “They have taken away my Lord, and I don’t know where they’ve put him.” As soon as she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she didn’t know it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?”

Thinking he was the gardener, she replied, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him and I will get him.”

Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabbouni” (which means *Teacher*).

Jesus said to her, “Don’t hold on to me, for I haven’t yet gone up to God. Go to my brothers and sisters and tell them, ‘I’m going up to my God... to my God and your God.’”

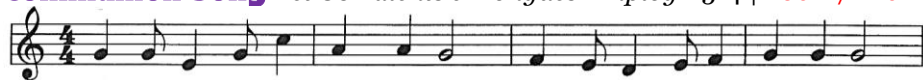
Mary Magdalene left and announced to the disciples, “I’ve seen the Lord.” Then she told them what he said to her.

## **Moment of Silent Reflection**

### **Sermon**

**Invitation to the Communion Table** We invite *all* to this **open table**. All accepted—no exceptions—as we commit ourselves to limitless love, courageous action and spirited inquiry.

**Communion Song** *Let Us Talents & Tongues Employ #514* | Red Hymnal



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em-ploy, reach-ing out with a shout of joy:  
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at his ta - ble he set the tone,  
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear-ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.  
teach-ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.  
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im-man - u - el) ev - ery-where!

*Refrain (first time p, second time f)*



Je-sus lives a-gain, earth can breathe a-gain, pass the Word a-round: loaves a-bound!

**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.]

**Breaking Bread & Pouring Wine**

Please come forward in the center aisle to receive the gifts of bread and cup. Gluten-free wafers are on the communion table. Grape juice is in the outer ring; wine is in the center. Please return by the side aisles. All are welcome at this *Open Table*.

**\*Litany after Communion** Drew Ludwig

One: Jesus was beloved by the poor and the outcast

**Many: but he was a threat to people with power.**

One: Jesus stood against some of the teachings of the Temple,

**Many: so he was a threat to the writers of the law.**

One: Jesus healed on the Sabbath and ate with sinners,

**Many: so he was a threat to the ones who were bound by the letter of the law.**

One: Jesus took the titles of “Lord,” “Son of God,” and “King.”

**Many:** Those were Caesar's titles: so he was a threat to the government.

One: Jesus came without violence

**Many:** yet he disturbed the peace.

One: Jesus came proclaiming the Kindom of God

**Many:** and the kingdoms of this world were frightened.

One: Lord, help us to love your people and your kindom more than the kingdoms and leaders of this world.

**All:** For yours is the kindom, the power, and the glory -- forever. Amen.

**\*Song of Parting** *Now the Green Blade Rises*



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain;  
2 In the grave they laid their Love whom hate had slain,  
3 Christ came forth at Eas - ter, like the ris - en grain,  
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



Wheat that in dark earth for man - y days has lain;  
Think - ing that their Love would nev - er wake a - gain,  
Je - sus, who for three days in the grave had lain,  
Christ's warm touch can call us back to life a - gain,



Love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been:  
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen:  
Quick from the dead the ris - en One is seen:  
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:



Love is come a - gain like wheat that ris - es green.

**\*Benediction**

**\*God's Light Goes Forth**

**\*Postlude** *Conqueror's March*

by R. M. Stults c 1930 Lorenz Publishing Co.

## **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 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).

## **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**

Forty days after his resurrection, Jesus tells his disciples that they will receive the Holy Spirit and go out to the ends of the world to be witnesses. Jesus then ascends into heaven and the disciples return to Jerusalem. (Acts 1:1-14).

## 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 16:1-8

Jesus' tomb is empty. What does the empty tomb reveal about God's power? What does the empty tomb reveal about Jesus?

### MONDAY: John 20:1-10

Jesus is resurrected. What did the disciple believe about what he saw? What do you believe about what they saw?

### TUESDAY: John 20:11-18

Jesus appears to Mary Magdaline. Why was Mary weeping? How was Mary able to recognize Jesus so easily?

### WEDNESDAY: Luke 24:13-27

Jesus appears on the road to Emmaus. Why did those on the road to Emmaus not recognize Jesus?

### THURSDAY: Luke 24:28-35

Jesus is known through broken bread. What happens in your heart when you sense God's presence?

### FRIDAY: Luke 24:36-49

Jesus appears to his disciples. Pray and ask God to open your mind to understand the Scriptures.

### SATURDAY: Matthew 28:16-20

Jesus commissions the disciples. How does knowing that Jesus is with you help you share the good news with others?

# Announcements

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

## Church Easter Egg Hunt after Worship TODAY!

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:connorsd@aol.com) if interested. One spot remaining!

### Tuesday Evening Dialogue – April 9

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

Please join us on Tuesday April 9 for our first session on the book **The Accidental President** by A.J. Baime. This book is a historical account of Harry S. Truman and his first four months as president at a time that "changed the world". This book goes into depth about the events during that time period involving WW II including the decision to drop the atomic bomb. For our first session we will be covering up to Part III April-May 1945 (page 115).

We meet every second and fourth Tuesday at 6pm for potluck dinner and book discussion. For more info, contact Helen Race [raceh@att.net](mailto:raceh@att.net)

### 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](mailto: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.

## **Speaker Series Occasional opportunities after worship at 11:15am**

### **"Lobbying with Our Better Angels: Working with Congress to Build Bridges,"** by Cynthia Changyit Levin.

April 14 | 11:15 am | Heritage Room

Author and activist Cynthia Changyit Levin shares real stories from her non-partisan advocacy experiences to illustrate the importance of working with members of Congress even when we don't agree with them. She will also give an update on Bread for the World's advocacy on the Farm Bill and offer a letter-writing action for participants to help bring nutrition to people in poverty in the U.S. and around the world. For more information contact Richard Scherrer 90fivetpr@gmail.com.

## **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?

Please reach out to [barry@parkwayucc.org](mailto: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](mailto:gabriel@parkwayucc.org)

## **Childrens 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](mailto:gabriel@parkwayucc.org). If you wandered over to our pollinator garden last summer and fall, I hope you were as excited as I was about the success of our little garden. The flowers were beautiful and attracted lots of bees, butterflies, and other pollinators.

## **Spring Clean Up in the Garden**

If you have wandered over recently you may be thinking "Why isn't this garden cleaned up for spring?". The garden is not neglected, it is providing cover and protection for our overwintering pollinators.

The insects that we worked hard to attract last year haven't yet awakened from their winter slumber. Some of our native bees lay their eggs in old plant stems and some butterflies and moths overwinter in chrysalids that are hiding under the dead leaves. If we clean up the garden too soon we will discard our pollinators with the dead leaves and garden debris.

So, when should we clean up the garden? The Xerxes Society for Invertebrate Conservation has put out some easy to remember guidelines that can help us remember when it is ok to clean up.

- Have I put the away the snow shovel, mittens and winter coat?
- Would I plant tomatoes now?
- Is the lawn growing tall?
- Have I paid my taxes?
- Are the apples and pears finished blooming?

When the guidelines above are met then it is time to work in the garden. Summer will be here soon enough and the memories of the untidy garden will be lost under the summer blooms.

For more information: <https://xerces.org/blog/dont-spring-into-garden-cleanup-too-soon>

Julie Harms, PUCC Sustainability Seekers



## 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](mailto: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!

## eNews Troubleshooting Tips

Parkway UCC has recently begun using a new software called **One Church** in an effort to make the church experience more vibrant and engaging than ever. One of the things we have been using **One Church** for has been to send out our weekly eNews. We have heard how it doesn't always reach everyone we send it to, or it goes into the spam folder. This can happen for a variety of reasons, but something you can try doing is setting a 'rule' in your email that will always accept emails coming from the church. Usually you can right-click on the email to set this up. And if you move your eNews from your spam folder to your inbox enough times, that, too, after enough times, can usually register with your email to accept the eNews and other items coming from the church. If these tips don't work, please reach us at [contact@parkwayucc.org](mailto:contact@parkwayucc.org).

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Mile Lent & Easter 2024

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**Lydia's House** [lydiashouse.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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.

Please be sure to clearly mark your financial gifts '2<sup>nd</sup> 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 27, 2024

## Celebrations

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

**Ramadan Mubarak** to our Muslim family and friends!

**Reauthorization of PEPFAR - global AIDS Relief.**

## Concerns

**Lana Biondo and family** as they grieve/give thanks for her mother; a memorial service will take place in Ohio in early May.

**Martha Rosenberger** (Cassie's mother) - in the hospital all last week.

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

**Stephanie** - medical tests and surgery plan (Nick McMillon's daughter).

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

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

**The people of Baltimore** after the ship crash and bridge collapse.

**The people of Moscow after deadly violence in a concert hall.**

**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 long-awaited surgery.

**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).

**Barbara W** - in need of healing (Reinhardt).

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

**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)

**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;

#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.**

**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.