





www.parkwayucc.org

April 07, 2024

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Limitless Love | Courageous Action | Spirited Inquiry

Purpose Statement

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

Congregational Statement

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

PARKWAY UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

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Welcome *to* Parkway

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

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

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

Scripture Reader Evelyn Buretta. Consider signing up to read scripture in 2024: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60BoD4CA4AC23AB9-scripture1>

Flowers given by John & Joyce Ruiz in celebration of Joyce'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

04/07 Joyce Ruiz

04/07 Ian Doty

04/08 Barbara Raedeke

04/09 Phil Waite

04/11 Nancy Wessinger

Anniversaries

04/12 Rick & Cathy Hasler

2nd Sunday of Easter

Sunday, April 07, 2024 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Prelude *Prelude on "Garden"* – arr. by Robert W. Thygerson, based on the tune by C. Austin Miles

Welcome Let us know you are here!

Meditation Despite current ads and slogans, the world doesn't change one person at a time. It changes when networks of relationships form among people who share a common cause and vision of what's possible. This is good news for those of us intent on creating a positive future. Rather than worry about critical mass, our work is to foster critical connections. We don't need to convince large numbers of people to change; instead, we need to connect with kindred spirits. Through these relationships, we will develop the new knowledge, practices, courage and commitment that lead to broad-based change. ~Margaret J. Wheatley

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

Welcome Song *You Are Welcome Here*

You are wel - come here, no mat ter who you are, no mat ter
where you are on life's jour - ney. You are wel come here,
no mat - ter who you are, come and
join with us, in our U - ni - ted Church of Christ.

*Call to Worship

One:	God, we waited for Jesus' resurrection, wondering if you would show us a new way. Now we ask,
Many:	Come, Holy Spirit.

One:	Your resurrection brought hope, but also brought fear and questions. Help us understand what this means for us.
Many:	Come, Holy Spirit.
One:	For 40 days Jesus remained with the disciples, taught them, and prepared them for the work you would have them do. They pleaded,
Many:	Come, Holy Spirit.
One:	Now we ask you to enter into our worship, fill our spirits, and fill our lives with your presence. We call out,
Many:	Come, Holy Spirit.
All:	Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.

***Song** *Christ is Alive!* #108 v.1, 2, and 5 | Red Hymnal



1. Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
 2. Christ is a - live! No long - er bound To dis - tant
 3. Not throned a - far, re - mote - ly high, Un - touched, un -
 4. In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war, Where col - or,



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, But sav - ing, heal - ing,
 moved by hu - man pains, But dai - ly, in the
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now, And touch - ing ev - ery place and time.
 midst of life, Our Sav - ior in the God - head reigns.
 loves the more, And lives, where ev - en hope has died.

5. Christ is alive, and comes to bring Till earth and sky and ocean ring
 Good news to this and every age, With joy, with justice, love, and praise.

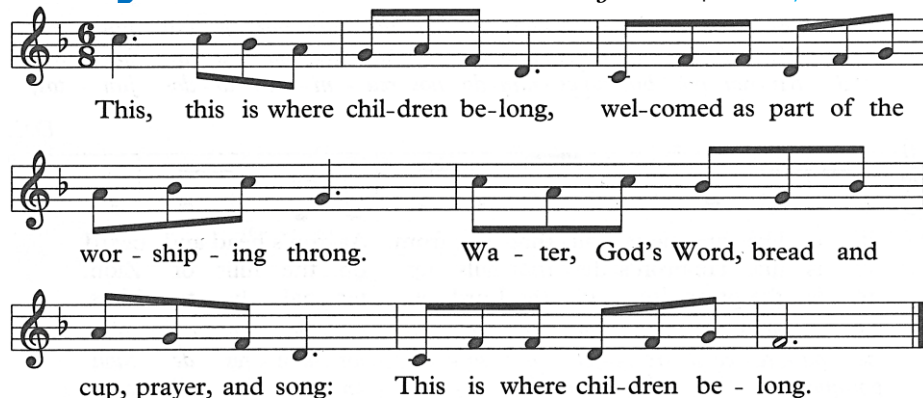
***Opening Prayer**

Jesus, you are here! You are alive! And you are with us today. But today you also challenge us. You send us. You give us work to do. Open our ears and our hearts as we hear this challenge in our own lives. Amen.

***Response** *Spirit of the Living God*
Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me!
Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.

Children's Time Please return to your seats for this One Family Worship. There are staff in the Nursery for children two and under. If your child needs some extra room or is feeling a little restless, the Gathering Space can be a great place!

Blessing the Children *Where Children Belong* #2233 | **Blue Hymnal**



This, this is where chil-dren be-long, wel-comed as part of the
wor - ship - ing throug. Wa - ter, God's Word, bread and
cup, prayer, and song: This is where chil-dren be - long.

WORDS: James Ritchie
MUSIC: James Ritchie

RITCHIE
Irregular

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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



Offering Anthem *My Lord, What a Morning* – Traditional Spiritual, arr. by Jay Althouse

Refrain:

My Lord, what a morning! My Lord, what a morning!
O, my Lord, what a morning when the stars begin to fall.

You'll hear the trumpet sound to wake the nations underground.
Looking to my God's right hand when the stars begin to fall. (*Refrain*)

You'll hear the people moan to wake the nations underground.
Looking to my God's right hand when the stars begin to fall (*Refrain*)

***Response**

**Praise God whose many names abound;
Our Peace, our Rock, Our Holy Ground,
Our Home, our All, Earth's Majesty,
Love, Spirit, Light and Mystery. Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Holy One, thank you for not letting Jesus stay in the grave. You are full of life, and bring life to us, even when we do not expect it. And now, God, you send us out. You send us to tell the world about you with our words and actions. Bless all of these places where your love is needed. Help us to be your witnesses to these places. Amen.

Scripture Acts 1:1-14, selected verses | CEB - Common English Bible

Before Jesus was taken up, working in the power of the Holy Spirit, he instructed the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he showed them that he was alive with many convincing proofs. He appeared to them over a period of forty days, speaking to them about God's kingdom. While they were eating together, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait for what God had promised. He said, "This is what you heard from me: John baptized with water, but in only a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." As a result, those who had gathered together asked Jesus, "Lord, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now?"

Jesus replied, "It isn't for you to know the times or seasons that God has set by God's own authority. Rather, you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

After Jesus said these things, as they were watching, he was lifted up and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going away and as they were staring toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood next to them. They said, "Galileans, why are you standing here, looking toward heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you saw him go into heaven."

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, which is near Jerusalem—a sabbath day's journey away. When they entered the city, they went to the upstairs room where they were staying. Peter, John, James, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James, Alphaeus' son; Simon the zealot; and Judas, James' son—all were united in their devotion to prayer, along with some women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

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.

Call to Prayer *Guide My Feet* #354 v.1-2 | Red Hymnal



1. Guide my feet
2. Hold my hand while I run this race,
3. Stand by me
4. I'm Your child



Guide my feet
Hold my hand while I run this race,
Stand by me
I'm Your child



Guide my feet
Hold my hand while I run this race, For I
Stand by me
I'm Your child



don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)

Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People, Lord's Prayer

Our [Creator/Mother/Father/Holy One] **who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

[A variety of names for God are welcome here – including in the Lord's Prayer.]

*Breaking Bread & Pouring Wine/Juice

Please come forward in the center aisle to receive the bread and wine. All are welcome! Gluten-free wafers are on the communion table. Grape juice is in the outer ring; wine is in the center circles. Please return by the side aisles.

Communion Interlude *Prelude on "Repton"* – arr. by Bonnie Barrett, based on the tune by Charles Parry

*Litany of Thanksgiving Jim Burklo

One: See grain ripening, watch grapes reddening.

Many: See dough rising, smell juice fermenting.

One: Observe development from infancy to adulthood.

Many: Watch friendship deepening, feel love swelling.

One: See the spread of community's web, notice creativity emerging.

Many: Taking it in, humbled with awe.

One: Beholding transformation...

Many: Bread becomes body, wine becomes blood,

One: We become elements of cosmic eucharist.

Many: Take, and eat.

One: Take, and drink.

All: We become more like Jesus.

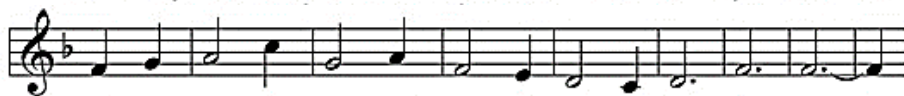
***Song of Parting** *Will You Come and Follow Me?* #2130 v.1-3 | Blue



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?"

2 "Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?"

3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?"



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?

Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?

Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er be the same?



Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;

Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?

Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,



will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"

Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"

and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"

***Peace Benediction**

One: May the peace of God surround you

Many: Like the trees of the forest

One: May the peace of God warm you all over

Many: Like the sun in the sky

One: May the peace of God swell and roll over you

One: May the peace of God fill you

Many: Like the cool wind

All: May the peace of God be with us all.

***God's Light Goes Forth**

***Music for Going Forth** *Postlude in Bb Major* – by K. Seeger (18th Cent.),
arr. by Carlo Rossini – © 1989 J. Fischer & Bro / Alfred Publishing Co., In

LAST WEEK

Three women found Jesus' tomb empty. Eventually, word got out about Jesus' resurrection, and his disciples gathered around their risen Lord (Mark 16:1-8).

THIS 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).

THE POINT

Jesus sends us to spread the good news everywhere!

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

Knowing a bit about the Roman Empire can help us as we read and interpret the New Testament. The Roman government ruled without the people's input. There was a strong military presence, and those who were seen as a threat to the empire were tortured and sometimes crucified. There was violence, high taxation, and pressure to worship Roman gods. The people who lived in Judea were under the rule of the Roman Empire. There was significant tension between the Jewish people in Judea and Galilee and the Roman rulers who did not even allow the people full freedom over religious matters.

PRACTICE: PRAYER

Before telling others about Jesus this week, spend time in prayer asking for an opportunity and for the words to say. Jesus promised his disciples—and us—the gift of the Holy Spirit, who will give us the ability to be Jesus' witnesses. We need the Spirit's help in spreading the good news, and help is always just a prayer away.

NEXT WEEK

Peter and John prove to be the witnesses Jesus said they would become. In the name of Jesus, they heal a man who could not walk from birth (Acts 3:1-10).

STORY SUMMARY

Jesus spends forty days with his followers offering them proof of his resurrection and teaching them how to spread the good news about the kingdom of God. He makes clear they will have the help of the Holy Spirit that he will send. They are to spread the gospel beyond Galilee and Jerusalem, to the ends of the earth. After giving this final commission, he ascends into heaven on a cloud. As the disciples gaze after him, two men in white robes appear to the followers and remind them that gazing after him is not their call. Jesus will return, but right now the disciples have work to do.

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: Acts 1:1-14

Jesus commissions the disciples. What does it mean to devote oneself to prayer?

MONDAY: Acts 1:15-20

Judas the betrayers' life ends. In what way do you think Judas' betrayal was part of God's plan?

TUESDAY: Acts 1:21-26

Matthias is added to the apostles. How willing are you to welcome new people into your group of friends?

WEDNESDAY: Acts 2:1-13

The Holy Spirit fills the believers. Why was everyone able to hear the message in their own language?

THURSDAY: Acts 2:14-21

Peter preaches to the crowd. What does it take for you to believe something? When have you called on the name of the Lord?

FRIDAY: Acts 2:37-42

People repent and are baptized. How do you devote yourself to God's teaching, fellowship, and prayer?

SATURDAY: Acts 2:43-47

The early believers lived in community. In what ways do you share life with other believers? What is the difference between the church fellowship today and that of the early church?

Announcements

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

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

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

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.

AWOL: Adventurous Women Out Late

Join us as we make new connections and strengthen existing ones. Join us at Laumeier Sculpture Park, Sunday, April 14th. Bring lunch to church to share during the Speaker Series with Cindy Levin or come after you eat. We will carpool from church at 12:30pm – or just meet us there. Bring your walking shoes! Please RSVP to cfbum@charter.net by Friday, April 12. LSP has been engaging the community through art and nature from almost 50 years on the ancestral lands of the Osage Nation, Missouri, and Illini Confederacy... 12580 Rott Road, Saint Louis 63127

Also—

Dinner at The Wolf Café: 15480 Clayton Road, Ballwin, MO 63011

Friday, May 24

Meet at the restaurant at 6pm. Please RSVP to cfbum@charter.net by Wednesday, May 22.

Their menu is prepared 90% in-house with great care using wholesome foods and the finest fresh, local and real ingredients.

Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue – April 16

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 with the TAD group as we start our next book, *The Reading List* by Sara Nisha Adams. We'll read and discuss about a third of the book each meeting, April 16, May 7, and May 21. Join us from 2 pm-3 pm, or arrive about 15 minutes early for fellowship.

The Reading List is a heartwarming novel about how a chance encounter with a list of library books helps forge an unlikely friendship between two very different people in a London suburb. It address themes of loneliness, loss, friendship, building community, and the value of reading as an individual as well as shared experience.

Contact Jackie Eiffert for more information: jeiffert2@gmail.com

PUCC Adventurers at The Soda Museum & Main Street Arcade

Thursday, April 18 | 10am-1pm | 126 North Main Street, St. Charles, MO 63301

Please join the PUCC Adventurers on Thursday, April 18th, as we tour The Soda Museum & Main Street Arcada downtown St. Charles. The tour may last an hour and we'll have time to wander around.

On November 30, 2023, The Soda Museum and Main Street Arcade opened and is devoted to more than 100 years of soft drink history and marketing and offers a selection of drinks — in glass bottles, naturally — of brands both forgotten and obscure: Moxie, Teem, Bubble Up, Brownie Root Beer, Kickapoo Joy Juice. Each bottle of Mr. Cola proclaims it is “the aristocrat of colas.”

Enjoy reminiscing about when Coke only came in a glass bottle or perhaps the advent of the first soda vending machine? A new museum in St. Charles will quench the thirst of soda enthusiasts with an immersive journey through the history of these carbonated beverages.

The museum will be split into two sections. The main floor, mezzanine and top floor will have all the soda memorabilia, while the basement will be home to a full arcade that includes dozens of classic video games, pinball machines,

bowling machines, air hockey and more. The museum is accessible with a ramp at the back entrance, an elevator, and a chair lift.

Museum and Arcade Tour is \$15 per person. Payment (Cash or Credit Card) due the day of the event. Please RSVP by April 15th to Diane Tallyn (314) 910-2032 (email: diane_tallyn@hotmail.com) or Kent Tallyn (314) 303-5606. Let us know if you plan to meet at The Soda Museum or carpool from church at 9:30 a.m.

Lunch (Noon) will be at Lewis & Clark Restaurant, 217 South Main Street, St. Charles, MO 63301

Proud Art STL Upcoming Workshops and Prom

For Middle and High Schoolers | Shrewsbury City Center unless otherwise noted
Proud Art STL has some fun events on the horizon!

Friday, April 19th 6-8pm: Decorations and Masks for Masquerade prom.

Shrewsbury City Center, Mtg rm 2.

Saturday, May 4th 7-10pm: Proud Art Masquerade Prom.

Friday, May 17th 6-8pm: Tyler Harris art workshop. Shrewsbury City Center, Mtg rm 2.

Proud Art STL is a non-profit organization for LGBTQIA+ middle and high schoolers. They provide art workshops and special events for creativity, fun and community. For more information to register for events, visit proudartstl.org

PUCC Town Hall Meeting

Sunday, April 21st | 11:15am-1pm | Fellowship Hall

Please join the PUCC Church Council for a Town Hall Meeting and light lunch after church on Sunday, April 21st. Council will provide salads and attendees are asked to bring a dessert. As we meet in small table groups, Church Council would like your input on a few questions we have regarding your thoughts about, and experiences with, Parkway UCC. We'd love to hear from you.

RSVPs are appreciated. Reply to jeffert2@gmail.com

Meeting Our Neighbors: Congregation Temple Israel

Friday, April 26 | 6-8:30pm | Congregation Temple Israel

Join us as we gather with Congregation Temple Israel as guests for their Passover Shabbat followed by a presentation and discussion.

Address: 1 Rabbi Alvan D Rubin Dr. St. Louis, MO 63141

Space is limited & registration is required. To RSVP, email kevin@parkwayucc.org

Sustainability Seekers Earth Day Announcement

Sunday, April 28 | 11:15am | Heritage Room

Please join the Sustainability Seekers in the Heritage Room on April 28th, following the service. We will be watching the documentary, **Common Ground**. Although Earth Day is and should be Every Day, in honor of Earth Day/Week/Month, we will be viewing this enlightening, educational environmental film. The running time is 87 minutes so we will be offering a light lunch and snacks to enjoy during the movie and brief discussion. Stay tuned for more information regarding the movie each week.

Intertwine Interfaith Initiative Tour of Holocaust Museum

Sunday, April 28 | 1:15-4:15pm | 36 Millstone Campus Dr, STL, MO 63146

Join our Muslim, Jewish and Christian Intertwiners from Shaare Emeth, TASOM and PUCC for a tour and discussion led by our friend and Museum Board Member Vera Emmons, the daughter of a Holocaust survivor. The cost of the tour is \$6.00/Young Adult (10-17), \$12.00/Adult (18-64), and \$10.00/Senior (65+).

1:15-1:30 **Please allow time to purchase tickets at the Welcome Desk

1:30-1:45 Security including bag check (large bags are prohibited!)

1:45-3:15 Tour

3:15-4:15 Vera Emmons shares the testimony of her mother, a Holocaust survivor

The exhibition was designed for ages 10 and up; parent and guardian discretion is advised due to the graphic and intense subject matter.

To RSVP, please contact Lisa Mason ~ lmason624@sbcglobal.net

The St. Louis Kaplan Feldman Holocaust Museum is dedicated to using the history and lessons of the Holocaust to reject hatred, promote understanding, and inspire change.

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 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

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. 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://xerxes.org/blog/dont-spring-into-garden-cleanup-too-soon>

Julie Harms, PUCC Sustainability Seekers

Vacation Bible School

June 3-6 | 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. It will be \$25 for the first camper and \$20 for additional campers. To register, 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!

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.

Prayer List

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

Celebrations

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

We are Easter people!

Ramadan Mubarak to our Muslim family and friends!

Reauthorization of PEPFAR - global AIDS Relief.

Concerns

David Smith - hospitalized for tests (Deb Carter's father).

Christopher Haack - healing for a recurring condition.

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

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

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

Martha Rosenberger (Cassie's mother) - treatments for cancer.

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

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

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

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

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]

Glady 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.

April 7, 2024
Second Sunday of Easter
“Marks of Faith”
John 20:19-31

https://www.ucc.org/science_and_technology_network_page/

Today you are invited into the story of Thomas. Whether it is new to you or very familiar, take a few moments to read his story in the book of John. Sit with one or more of these questions. What words, phrases, or ideas jump out at you? What seems comforting? What is unsettling? What about this story stands the test of time? What part of this story seems better left in the past? What is God calling you to, using this story?

Although he is sometimes called “Doubting Thomas,” the disciple’s willingness to ask questions does not show doubt but in fact its opposite; curiosity and a deep desire to experience the risen Christ using all of his senses. This post-Easter impulse, to deeply know the risen Christ however one can, is at the heart of the United Church of Christ’s Science and Technology Network.

The Network is guided by the Pastoral Letter on Faith and Science, an epistle that turns twenty-five years old this year. Some issues, like the rise of the use of AI, for example, and a more global awareness of the seriousness of climate change, are new. But the questions the Pastoral Letter on Faith and Science asks are just as salient today as they were two and half decades ago.

As you were invited into the story of Thomas, take some time to read or re-read the the Pastoral Letter on Faith and Science. You can find it online at <https://www.ucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/pastoral-letter-on-faith-and-science.pdf>

As you read, ask yourself the What words, phrases, or ideas jump out at you? What seems comforting? What is unsettling? What about this letter stands the test of time? What part of this letter seems better left in the past? What is God calling you to, using this letter?