





www.parkwayucc.org

June 02, 2024

Contents

- 3 Birthdays and Anniversaries
- 4 10:00am Worship
- 11 Announcements
- 17 Prayer List

Limitless Love | Courageous Action | Spirited Inquiry

Purpose Statement

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

Congregational Statement

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

PARKWAY UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

2841 North Ballas Road | St. Louis, MO 63131 | 314-872-9330 [p] | 314-872-9014 [f]
parkwayucc.org | contact@parkwayucc.org

Lana Biondo, *President of the Church Council* [puccpresident@parkwayucc.org]

Kevin Cameron, *Pastor* [kevin@parkwayucc.org]

Barry Luedloff, *Music Director* [barry@parkwayucc.org]

Gabriel Requadt, *Christian Ed & Admin Support* [gabriel@parkwayucc.org]

Mona Smith Herberg, *Website and Graphic Design* [mona@parkwayucc.org]

Kathy Ferrell, *Office Assistant* [kathy@parkwayucc.org]

John Dwyer, *Treasurer* [treasurer@parkwayucc.org]

Dawn Friedmann, *Bookkeeper* [dawn@parkwayucc.org]

Julie Connors and Becca Palmgren, *Nursery* [juliestl1992@yahoo.com]

Kim Livengood, *Church Historian* [historian@parkwayucc.org]

Joyce Ruiz, *Alzheimer's Assn Faith Outreach Ambassador* [JoyceRuiz7@gmail.com]

Polly Rutherford, *Environmental Justice/Sustainability Seekers* [pollyrutherford@gmail.com]

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 Harold Cobb.

Consider signing up to read scripture this spring or summer by scanning QR code.

Flowers given by Barry Luedloff in recognition of choirs and other volunteer musicians.

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

All word and service music reprint permission covered under CCLI License #2464265; CLCLI Streaming License #21357331

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

06/02 Carmen Bumgarner

06/02 Abby Sperry

06/04 Amanada McDougall

06/05 Doug Dischinger

06/05 Paige Brueggemann

06/06 Kenneth Shippee

06/07 Sally Dischinger

06/07 Paul Stohr

Anniversaries

06/03 Dottie & John Dwyer

06/05 Diane & Kent Tallyn

2nd Sunday *after* Pentecost

Sunday, June 02, 2024 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Prelude *Christians, We Have Met to Worship* – arr. by Mark Hayes (adapted), based on the hymn tune Holy Mana by William Moore, ©2006 Lorenz Publishing Co.

Welcome Let us know you are here!

Meditation Life is a balance of holding on and letting go. ~Rumi

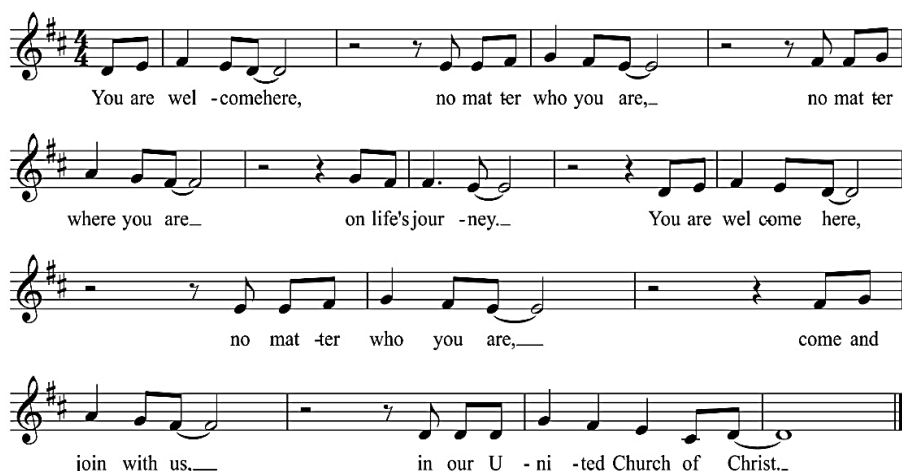
Passing the Peace of Christ

“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*



Scripture Psalm 139: 1-18, 23-24 | NRSV—New Revised Standard Version
O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it. Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,” even the darkness is

not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you. For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed. How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

***Call to Worship**

One:	God calls us here because God loves us.
Many:	In the mystery and in the knowing, we come.
One:	Jesus' stories and miracles are in this place.
Many:	We want to be more like Jesus, so we listen and respond in love.
One:	The Holy Spirit came on Pentecost and keeps coming again and again.
Many:	We make room for the Spirit in our minds, bodies and relationships.
One:	We come this morning to participate and to have an experience of God.
Many:	We sing, pray, remember, hope, heal, learn, laugh, bless and more...
One:	We come in ways old and new.
All:	Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.

***Song** *God, We Sing and Worship* Carolyn Winfrey Gilette
 (Tune: *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty*)
 God, we sing and worship, joining friends and neighbors,
 Sharing with the ones we love, the joy of your good news.
 We have heard your gospel through our church's labors,
 Through loving lives of those who share our pews.

What a joyful gift to learn the faith of others;
 Yet we know the greater joy of faith that is our own.
 May we know your love for all your sons and daughters:
 We live in you, God, we are not alone.

You have given Jesus, you have sent your Spirit;
 You have given water as a sign that we belong.
 You have given love and called your church to share it;
 Through bread and chalice, you have made us strong.

Now we come before you in the faith you gave us,
In the faith that was your gift when we were all baptized.
Jesus is our way! You send him here to love us!
With grateful hearts, we give you now our lives.

***Opening Prayer** New Zealand Prayer Book

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all
all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving
God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of
your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly
will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace
and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb
from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test,
strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the
grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the
power that is love, now and for ever. 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.
Julie and Becca are in the Nursery for children two and under.

Blessing the Children *This is Where Children Belong*



This, this is where chil-dren be-long, wel-come 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

© 1999 Abingdon Press (admin. by The Copyright Co., Nashville, TN)

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 Interlude *Change My Heart, O God* – Words and music by Eddie Espinosa, ©1982 by Mercy Publishing

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true;
Change my heart, O God, may I be like You.
You are the Potter, I am the clay;
Mold me and lake me, this is what I pray.
Change my heart, O God, make it ever true;
Change my heart, O God, may I be like You.
May I be like You.

*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

Laurel Amabile

With gratitude, we receive these gifts and dedicate them to our shared work: serving human wholeness and welcoming the stranger; caring for our planet, and upholding religious freedom; walking together, always, with love and compassion. Amen.

Scripture

1 Samuel 3:1-10 | NRSV

Now the child Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon

The Rite of Confirmation

Dexter Cameron

Anastasia Chostner

Alexander Doty

Ben Duke

Josie Duke

Caitlin Scharf

Invitation, Questions and Promises

Congregation

One: Jesus Christ calls us to offer the gift of grace in confirmation. Do you, who witness and celebrate this rite, promise your love, support and care to these young people as they each live and grow in Christ?

All: We promise our love, support, and care!

Act of Confirmation and Confirmation Prayers

The Right Hand of Fellowship and Gifts from the Church

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

You Are Mine



1. — I will come to you in the si - lence, —
2. — I am hope for all who are hope-less, —
3. — I am strength for all the de - spair-ing, —
4. I am the Word that leads all to free - dom, I



I will lift you from — all your fear. —
I am eyes for all who long to see. In the
heal - ing for the ones who dwell in shame. —
am the peace the world can - not give. —



You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice, be
shad-ows of the night, I will be your light,
All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and
I will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain, stand

still and know I am here. _____
 come and rest in
 all will know my
 up, now walk, and
 me. _____
 name. _____
 live! _____
 Do not be a-fraid, I am
 with you. I have called you each by name.
 Come and fol-low me, I will bring you home; I
 love you and you are mine. _____

Prayers and Lord's Prayer sung to the tune by Nate Stout

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

[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 *Improvisations on Quiet Interlude* – “Quiet Interlude” originally composed by Ben Logan, ©2008 Lorenz Publishing Co.

*Prayer of Thanksgiving Shirley Erena Murray

In the singing, in the silence, in the hands expectant, open. In the blessing, in the breaking, in the Presence at this table—Jesus, be the wine of grace: Jesus, be the bread of peace. In the question, in the answer, in the moment of acceptance, in the hearts cry, in the healing, in the circle of your people—Jesus, be the wine of grace: Jesus, be the bread of peace. Help us to be these gifts too. Amen.

***Song of Parting** *In the Midst of New Dimensions*



1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo - ple, war-ring fac-tions and de - spair,
3 As we stand a world di - vid - ed by our own self - seek - ing schemes,
4 We are one and we are man - y all per-sua-sions, old and young,
5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with - draw in pain,



Who will lead the pil - grim peo - ples wan-dering in their sep - arate ways?
Who will lift the ol - ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
Grant that we, your glob - al vil - lage, might en - vi - sion wid - er dreams.
Each a gift in your cre - a - tion, each a love song to be sung.
May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir - it res - ur - rect the church a - gain.

Refrain



Am

God of rain-bow, fier - y pil - lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your



peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev - er, now and ev - er, now and ev - er - more.

***Benediction**

***God's Light Goes Forth**

***Annual Congregational Meeting: Leadership**

Announcements

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

Congregational Meeting—June 2

Please join us immediately after worship on Sunday, June 2 for our annual meeting where we elect leaders for 2024-2025. For more info contact Kevin Cameron kevin@parkwayucc.org or Lana Biondo lanabiondo66@gmail.com.

Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue – June 4

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

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

Join with TAD on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 2–3pm as we discuss the book *Crow Mary* by Kathleen Grissom in parts over 3 sessions, June 4th, June 18th, and July 2nd. Join in at 1:45pm for fellowship.

In Montana in the summer of 1872, a young Crow woman named Goes Forth, later called Crow Mary, marries a fur trader, and accompanies him to his trading post in the Cypress Hills of Saskatchewan, Canada. In the spring of 1873, Crow Mary and others are preparing to return to Montana when they witness the Cypress Hills Massacre, in which forty innocent Nakoda are killed. Following the massacre, Crow Mary rescues Nakoda women who are being held captive. Thus, she sets off a whirlwind of colliding cultures that brings out the worst and best in the cast of characters. Inspired by the life of the real Crow Mary and endorsed by her great-granddaughter, Crow elders, and Crow scholars, this is an epic story that sweeps across decades, showcases the beauty of the natural world, and probes the challenges that Crow Mary faced. Contact Jackie Eiffert for more information: jeiffert2@gmail.com

AMOE: Adventurous Men Out Early

Thursday, June 6 | 9:15a | Heritage Room

What is this oddly named event, you ask? It's just friends gathering for coffee and chit chat. Bring a friend. All are welcome (Come late; leave early, if you like). Questions? Contact Richard Scherrer at 90fivetpr@gmail.com.

Speaker Series Occasional opportunities after worship at 11:15am “The Six Pillars of Brain Health,” by Joyce Johnston of the AARP (American Association of Retired Persons)

June 9 | Heritage Room | 11:15am

It's never too late to take charge of your brain health! In this hour-long, interactive session you will learn about the six pillars of a brain-healthy lifestyle. Discover how living an active life – by learning more, being social, staying fit, eating right, getting enough sleep and managing stress – can support brain health.

“Lost Treasures of St. Louis, the Book,” presented by authors Cameron Collins and Dennis Dillon

June 23 | Heritage Room | 11:15am

Join longtime St. Louisans Dennis Dillon and his co-author, Cameron Collins as they travel to favorite St. Louis haunts and hangouts that are gone but not forgotten. This second edition of “Lost Treasures of St. Louis” will elicit nostalgia and reveal how the past has shaped St. Louis and all who have called it home.

Cameron and Dennis provide a kaleidoscope of bygone places, events, and items once identified with the Gateway City; places like the Admiral, Ronnie’s Drive-In, Schneithorst’s, Famous-Barr, and the Highlands.

Come and participate in a free drawing to win one of Cameron and Dennis’ books.

Each speaker will appear in person in the Heritage Room, following worship service. There will be no remote access. For more information about events, contact Richard Scherrer 90fivetpr@gmail.com.

Tuesday Evening Dialogue – June 11

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

Please join us on Tuesday June 11 for our next session on our current book *Eligible: A Novel* by Curtis Sittenfeld, a St Louis author. This is described as a modern day version of *Pride and Prejudice*. It’s a fun summer read. Please read up to Chapter 113 (page 300) for the evening’s discussion. Pot luck at 6 pm. Book discussion at 7 pm. For more info, contact Helen Race raceh@att.net.

Coffee and Conversation

Wednesday, June 12 | 2pm | 14123 Clayton Rd, Town & Country, MO 63017

Join us for a beverage and sweet treat at Panera on Clayton Rd at 141 in Town & Country Crossing. Come connect!

Future dates for Coffee and Conversation:

Friday, July 19 at 10am - Daily Bread on Manchester Road in Kirkwood;

Monday, August 19 at 2pm - Panera on Manchester Rd by 270 and Trader Joe's in Des Peres

No need to RSVP - just show up!

Questions? Contact kevin@parkwayucc.org; 314-872-9330

Party People Needed! Help Isaiah 58 Ministries Community Celebrations

Saturday, June 15, 10am-1pm | 2149 S Grand Blvd, St Louis MO 63104

Juneteenth Celebration: Join us for our third annual Juneteenth Celebration, showcasing black owned and neighborhood businesses. Crafts for the kids! Live entertainment! Community art project!

Email brenda@i58ministries.org if you would like to participate.

Back to School Fair: Saturday, July 20, 10am-1pm

This year they are preparing to give out 250 backpacks to local students and to have a great morning and lunch together.

PUC is hosting an activity - BOWLING. We have done this in the past and have had a great time!

We are looking for half a dozen people to be our crew. We will help Isaiah 58 as party people and we will run our bowling game. Please let kevin@parkwayucc.org know that you are up for this! We can carpool from church.

ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY: Isaiah 58 - Back to School, Sunday, Sept. 1
As in past years, Parkway is participating in Isaiah 58's Back-to-School program. We were asked to donate 160 boxes of 10-count washable markers. If you are shopping and see school supplies (especially on Tax-Free weekend) please consider purchasing some boxes.

Also, Isaiah 58 gives out new underwear with the school supplies, so we will have a collection box for those as well. Contact Sally Dodge s.dodge@hotmail.com

Summer Cleaning Party

Sunday, June 16 and 23 | 11:15am | Parkway UCC

Pucc needs volunteers to help clean out different areas in the church—craft closet, activity closet in Fellowship Hall, Youth Room closet, Room 9. Let Gabriel R. know if you can help by reaching out to him:
gabriel@parkwayucc.org!

Parkway Habitat Day

Saturday, June 22 | 7:45am-3:30pm

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.

If you are **committed** to going, please contact Tom McKenzie:
mmckenzie1947@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!

Walk to Defeat ALS—at Forest Park

Saturday, 22, 2024 | 10am | Forest Park

I am participating in the Walk to Defeat ALS St. Louis on June 22, 2024 in honor of a number of people I have known in the past and today. Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) is a progressive, fatal neurological disease. A friend's symptoms began with weakness in one hand. After a series of tests, he was diagnosed with ALS last summer. His weakness has spread to his other hand and both arms as well as affecting his balance, walking and now, speech. Please join us on this walk to promote awareness, camaraderie, and fundraising for ALS.

Every 90 minutes someone is diagnosed with ALS — it robs a person of the ability to walk, speak, eat, and eventually breathe. And what's even worse is that right now, there's no cure.

Will you join me and join the movement to cure ALS? It's easy to register online. Just ask me for the details to join the PUCC Team on June 22. Thank you! kevin@parkwayucc.org

Summer Bible Study: Ecclesiastes – June 23

Sundays, starting June 23 | 9-9:30am | Heritage Room

Sometimes considered the most curmudgeonly and cynical of all the books of the Bible, Ecclesiastes is also praised for telling it like it is. It addresses eternal problems that have always troubled human society: the problem of pain, the fruitlessness of overwork, the vanity of ambition, the age of anxiety, the fear of death and being forgotten. Ecclesiastes reminds us that these are not 21st century problems.

This book of wisdom also reminds us that the great joys in life are fairly simple: snuggling under the covers, having close friends and/or a sweetheart, sunlight, rest, eating good food and drinking good wine, and a good day's work. It offers soothing certainty about what it means to enjoy the good life: waiting, expecting, with open arms, to receive day by day the good things that come from God.

This study is divided into four sections:

- Chapters 1-2 (Vapor of Vapors: Everything Evaporates)
- Chapters 3:1-4:8 (A Time for Everything)
- Chapters 4:9-6:12 (The Key to Life is in Low Expectations)
- Chapters 7-12 (Time and Chance Happen to All)

In these Bible studies, you will be encouraged to listen: listen to the Bible, listen to your own questions and responses, and listen to the honest sharing among participants in your study group. In that mix of biblical text, personal engagement, and honest speaking and listening, God's word may be heard, speaking challenge and comfort. If you would like a Bible Study book, or for more info, contact Gabriel R. gabriel@parkwayucc.org.

Prayer Corner An opportunity to pray with someone

Monday, June 24 | 6-8pm | New Sanctuary

Drop-in Prayer Time.

Kevin will be in the Prayer Corner in the Sanctuary. Come on by if you'd like to pray together.

If you see someone else there, simply wait a bit in the Gathering Space.

Other opportunities this summer:

Tuesday, July 23 from 3-5pm;

Tuesday, August 27 from 8-10am

We can arrange a phone call or Zoom for another time if you'd like. Just reach out to me at kevin@parkwayucc.org; 314-872-9330

St. Louis Pridefest – GONA Booth Volunteers



Saturday, June 29, 10a-7p | Sunday, June 30, 10a -6p

Gateway Open and Affirming Coalition needs your help by volunteering time in our booth at LGBTQIA+ Festival in St. Louis -- PRIDEFEST 2024. Please use the QR code below to join us! Questions? Reach out to our own Greg Schmelig greg_schmelig@hotmail.com

PUCC Town Hall

Sunday, June 30 | 11:15a-12:45p | Fellowship Hall

Please join the Parkway UCC Church Council for a Town Hall Meeting and light lunch after church on June 30th. Council members will provide salads, and attendees are asked to bring desserts. As we meet in small table groups, the Church Council would like your input on a few questions we have regarding your thoughts about, and experiences with, Parkway UCC. We value what you have to say. Thank you!

RSVPs are encouraged for planning purposes, but not required. Please reply to Jackie Eiffert, jeiffert2@gmail.com

Urban Mission Experience

August 5-8 | Epiphany UCC | Benton Park, STL

Come take part in our Mission Trip this year with Urban Mission Experience Aug. 5-8, hosted by our sister church of Epiphany United Church of Christ. We'll be doing mission service projects in the Saint Louis area. Imagine serving in ways like helping out in a food pantry, or helping beautify a local neighborhood.

The age requirement will be 12 years old at time of event.

The intent will be to stay overnight at Epiphany UCC, but because we will be in the local area, if your child wanted to just serve during the day, that can work too! Our church will be providing the food for breakfast and lunch to be made together, and we will go out for dinner each night. Showers will be available at night, courtesy of the YMCA.

The cost will be an asked donation of about \$75. If you can't afford that, get in contact with gabriel@parkwayucc.org, and we'll help! Sign-up deadline will be July 5.

Report of Sanctuary Symbols Discussion

On Sunday, February 25, the Church Council arranged for a Biblical and Theological conversation with Eden Seminary professor Rev. Clint McCann after worship in our sanctuary, on the subject of symbols in our sanctuary. This topic is relevant today because it is 25 years since we began using the new sanctuary, making this a good time to reexamine the sanctuary and how it is decorated. This includes reconsideration of placement of the US flag, a secular symbol, in the sanctuary.

Rev. McCann began at the beginning with the book of Genesis and walked us through the way that the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) could have started with the story of Abraham and Sarah or the story of Moses and the Hebrew people, but instead it started with creation... the worldwide human family is more important than any specific people... the people of God in the midst of all of God's people.

Rev. McCann mentioned his favorite holy day after Easter and Christmas -- World Communion Sunday because we need to have everyone at the table in order to be who God intends us to be.

Our attention needs to be on hospitality, welcome, inclusivity, expansiveness. Our sanctuaries need to be sacred spaces that embrace the stranger from all walks of life.

The acknowledgement of our geographical location as a community within a community obligates us to see our place within the world.

Our mission is from everywhere to everywhere.

Scripture tells Abram and Sarai - and all of us - that we will not only be blessed but that we will also be a blessing to all the families of the earth.

Isaiah 2:2-4 reminds us that God will establish justice among all the nations and we shall live together in peace -- as we all learn to beat our swords into ploughshares and our spears into pruning-hooks.

Psalms 82, a prophetic psalm, defines God's commitment to justice in the form of serving the poor, needy, hungry... and ends with saying "Arise, O God, establish justice on earth for all the nations belong to you."

All of this means that we need to acknowledge the fact that some people are uncomfortable with the US flag in our sanctuary. Contrary to what some Christians

Nationalists might claim the will of God and the policies of the US are not in perfect alignment. Separation of church and state is important. The plurality of traditions is to be celebrated.

In the Book of Romans, Paul quotes Psalm 117 when he talks about God blessing all the nations. Paul is the one who helped widen the welcome of the church when he proclaimed that people didn't have to be Jewish to belong. He helped take away some of the sacred requirements, the badges of Jewish identity, ie. circumcision, dietary rule and Sabbath worship, so the people of the world would be welcome and would belong.

During and following Rev. McCann's remarks, several members made statements or suggestions or asked questions. The suggestions included, among other things, using the flag in the sanctuary on Memorial Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day; relocating the flag elsewhere in the building; and keeping things the way they are because of the controversial nature of actions taken with respect to the flag.

With respect to the flag, Council is considering relocating the US flag to another location in the church, such as the History Tower in the Gathering Space (a place which would tie our national identity and its symbol to our founders, the German immigrant farmers who came to America, and whose activities were shaped by their involvement in the American dream).

Council continues to welcome information, suggestions, and ideas on this subject, as it continues to carefully deliberate on it. We welcome members and friends to discuss this with any Council officer or member, or to send written comments to the Council.

PUCC Executive Board

President, Lana Biondo lanabiondo66@gmail.com

Vice President, Lisa Davidson

Vice President, Mark Sableman. (finance)

Treasurer, John Dwyer

Secretary, Kris Impastato

Council

Linda Tossing ex-officio member, Jackie Eiffert, Bill Hilgeman, Nancy Litzinger, Kris McKenzie, Cindy Nouri

Prayer List

Wednesday, May 29, 2024

Celebrations

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

The school year wrapping up - and graduates of all kinds.

Our Confirmands this Sunday - Alexander Doty, Anastasia Chostner, Ben Duke, Caitlin Scharf, Dexter Cameron, Josie Duke

Concerns

Ben/Marilyn McDougall - healing after his knee replacement surgery.

Jackie Eiffert - healing from last Thursday's hip replacement surgery.

Lori Connors - healing.

Jan Rothman - strengthening at Surrey Place (Lisa Duke's mother).

Mike and Peggy Mohl - grieving/giving thanks for his brother Keith.

The people of Papua New Guinea - aftermath of deadly landslides.

The continuing war in Ukraine.

War in the Mideast - Israel and Hamas.... ceasefire talks in progress.

Continuing

Kathleen Tarr - outpatient psychiatric treatment program.

Bill and Kathy Hilgeman - he is strengthening at home.

David Smith - has begun palliative care at home (Deb Carter's father).

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

Phil Clark - recuperating from hip surgery (Changyit-Levin).

Stephanie - healing from brain surgery (Nick/Sue McMillon's daughter)

Kari Borgmann - her mom turned 100 this spring; health issues

Rene Pelligrino and family - as she deals with multiple health issues.

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).

Sharon Thiemann - undergoing cancer treatment (Svenson).

Nelson Spencer - continued treatment for multiple issues (Svenson).

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 63011; 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.

Mom's Greens

by **Kaji Douša** | published on May 22, 2024

"The realm of the heavens is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in their field." – Matthew 13:31 (Gafney, **Year A**)

A famous civil rights leader once told me: One of the best kept secrets of the 60s is that your mom's greens fueled the movement.

I might've received this as a compliment, but, initially, I was insulted. Because mom – Karen Spellman – is a brilliant strategist and tactician. She thinks of details and possibilities and how to engineer solutions to them like no one else can. She doesn't miss a beat. I am confident that had way more influence than her greens.

Despite this, I do recall that whenever her fellow-movement folks in DC would meet at our house (which was several times a year), she would make her famous greens. And because I loved them, too, I loved those meetings – the food made them special.

Mom's greens, made with collards, kale, and mustards, all grow from the tiniest of seeds.

Look for the seeds, beloved. Look for the tiniest thing that God is implanting within you. Like the formation of a thought or idea that gives you some excitement or hope. Like the kindling of some warmth in a relationship that you realize might have more to it than you realize. Like finding that question you want to delve even deeper into. Like feeling the nudge to get to church, to pray a bit more.

Those are your seeds. Being planted by the Creator. Ready to be sown. And when they're sown? That's God handing us love on every plate. Just ask my mom.

Prayer

Thank you, God, for the endless chances to grow in your love.

Transitions

by **Anthony Robinson** | published on May 26, 2024

The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore. – Psalm 121:8 (NRSV)

This psalm's conclusion stresses God's presence in passage/transition moments, in "the going out" and "the coming in." Such moments are fraught—fraught with drama, anxiety and possibility.

I am leaving. Am I ready? Who, and what, will I miss? What am I entering into? Will I be ready? Will whoever or whatever is on the other end be ready? How will I make a whole new life in a new place?

Spring, it sometimes seems, is one transition after another.

Graduations. It went by so quickly.

A job change. Will I be up to it?

A move. Everything is different here.

Retirement. I can't wait. I'm terrified.

Border crossings. Fleeing, no guarantees.

If it is true that God offers a special promise of presence in such betwixt-and-between, fruit-basket-upset times, it is also the case that such changes may break us open to the Holy Spirit in unexpected ways.

In transition, we are vulnerable in new ways. Naked, metaphorically speaking. "What and whom can I hold onto?" "Who, or what, holds onto me?"

In entering in, we ask, "What is this place?"

Ours is a God who knows the journey, who is on the move, who goes ahead of us to Galilee. You will be upheld. You will be sustained, in your going out and coming in, by the mercies of God. Trust this.

Prayer

Bless, O God, by your powerful presence our going out and coming in, our dying and our rising, in the name of the risen One, who has gone before us. Amen.