





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

July 07, 2024

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## 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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2841 North Ballas Road | St. Louis, MO 63131 | 314-872-9330 [p] | 314-872-9014 [f]  
[parkwayucc.org](http://parkwayucc.org) | [contact@parkwayucc.org](mailto:contact@parkwayucc.org)

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

Kevin Cameron, *Pastor* [[kevin@parkwayucc.org](mailto:kevin@parkwayucc.org)]

Barry Luedloff, *Music Director* [[barry@parkwayucc.org](mailto:barry@parkwayucc.org)]

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

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

Kathy Ferrell, *Office Assistant* [[kathy@parkwayucc.org](mailto:kathy@parkwayucc.org)]

John Dwyer, *Treasurer* [[treasurer@parkwayucc.org](mailto:treasurer@parkwayucc.org)]

Dawn Friedmann, *Bookkeeper* [[dawn@parkwayucc.org](mailto:dawn@parkwayucc.org)]

Julie Connors and Becca Palmgren, *Nursery* [[juliestl1992@yahoo.com](mailto:juliestl1992@yahoo.com)]

Kim Livengood, *Church Historian* [[historian@parkwayucc.org](mailto:historian@parkwayucc.org)]

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

Polly Rutherford, *Environmental Justice/Sustainability Seekers* [[pollyrutherford@gmail.com](mailto: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** Andy Lowenthal.

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

## Flowers

Please consider honoring, remembering or celebrating someone by providing flowers for worship this summer. Signup on the poster on the bulletin board in the Gathering Space. Thank you.

**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

07/08 Harold Cobb  
07/08 Ian Mason  
07/08 Jack Sieber  
07/09 Jeremy Bowman  
07/11 Keith Borgmann  
07/13 Gabriel Requadt

# 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday *after* Pentecost

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

**Prelude** *Legende* – by C.P.E. Bach, arr. by David Paxton, ©MCMXCVII  
Lorenz Publishing Co.

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

**Meditation** Love is a fruit in season at all times and within the reach of every hand. ~Mother Teresa

## 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*

The image shows the musical notation for the Welcome Song 'You Are Welcome Here'. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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:	Jesus said, “Come!”
Many:	<b>To the light-hearted and the heavy-hearted: he said, “Come!”</b>
One:	To the well-off and the cast-off: he said, “Come!”
Many:	<b>To the youngsters and the oldsters: he said, “Come!”</b>
One:	To the faithful and the faithless: he said, “Come!”
Many:	<b>“Come unto me all you who labor and are heavy-burdened, and I will give you rest.”</b>
One:	The Holy Spirit reminds us of all the things that Jesus said and did.

<b>Many:</b>	<b>The Holy Spirit helps us to say and do the things that Jesus said and did.</b>
<b>All:</b>	<b>Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.</b>

**\*Song** *This Is My Song, v2*



1. This is my song, O God of all the na-tions,  
 2. My coun-try's skies are blu-er than the o-cean,  
 3. This is my prayer, O Rul-er of all na-tions:



a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.  
 and sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine;  
 let thy reign come; on earth thy will be done.



This is my home, the coun - try where my heart is;  
 but oth - er lands have sun - light too, and clo - ver,  
 In peace may all earth's peo - ple draw to - geth - er,



here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;  
 and skies are ev - ery - where as blue as mine.  
 and hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one.



but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing  
 O hear my song, thou God of all the na-tions,  
 O hear my prayer, thou God of all the na-tions;



with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.  
 a song of peace for their land and for mine.  
 my - self I give thee; let thy will be done.

## \*Opening Prayer

Holy One, we give you thanks for blue skies and sunlight, for oceans and lands near and far. We are also grateful for people close by and across the globe. Help us to respect, love and care for all of the gifts you give us. Amen.

## \*Response *What Can One Little Person Do?*

Musical score for the response "What Can One Little Person Do?". The score is in G major, 4/4 time, with a tempo of 125. It consists of five staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "What can one lit - tle per - son do? What can one lit - tle me or you do? - What can one lit - tle per - son do to help - this world go - 'round? One can help an - oth - er one and to - geth - er we can get the job done. What can one lit - tle per - son do to help - this world?"

**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.

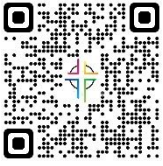
## **Blessing the Children** *This is Where Children Belong* | #2233 [Blue Songbook](#)

Musical score for the blessing "This is Where Children Belong". The score is in G major, 6/8 time. It consists of three staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "This, this is where chil - dren be - long, wel - comed as part of the wor - ship - ing throng. Wa - ter, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song: This is where chil - dren be - long."

## **UCC Justice Moments**

See page 10

## 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)

**Offering Interlude** *Sing a New World into Being* – Words by Mary Louise Bringle, from *Songs for the Holy Other*. Sung to the tune *Nettleton*, from *Repository of Sacred Music – Part Second 1813*

Sing a new world into being. Sound a bold and hopeful theme.  
Find a tune for silent yearnings. Lend your voice and dare to dream:  
Dream a church where all who worship find their lives and loves belong.  
Sing a new world into being. Sing as Christ inspires your song!  
Sing a new world into being where each gender, class and race  
Brings its rainbow gifts and colors to God's limitless embrace;  
where the lines that once divided form instead the ties that bind.  
Sing a new world into being: risk transforming heart and mind!  
Sing a new world into being where the homeless find a home;  
Where no children ever hunger but are filled with God's shalom;  
Where all people work for justice, where all hate and vengeance cease.  
Sing a new world into being: raise the harmonies of peace.  
Sing a new world into being. Join the ancient prophets' cry  
For a time of health and plenty when all tears have been wiped dry;  
When compassion flows like waters, pouring balm for all who grieve.  
Sing a new world into being: live the promise you believe!

**\*Response** *Make Me A Servant* | #2176 *Blue Songbook*

Musical notation for the hymn 'Make Me A Servant'. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Make me a ser-vant, hum-ble and meek, Lord, let me  
lift up those who are weak. And may the prayer of my  
heart al-ways be: Make me 'a ser-vant, make me a  
ser - vant, make me a ser - vant to - day. \_\_\_\_\_

## \*Prayer of Dedication

**Holy One, thank you for being with us every day as we make decisions about what to do with our time, talents and treasures. Help us to share our love in the words we use and the things we do. Amen.**

**Scripture** Mark 6:1-13, selected verses | New Revised Standard Version  
Jesus left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?"

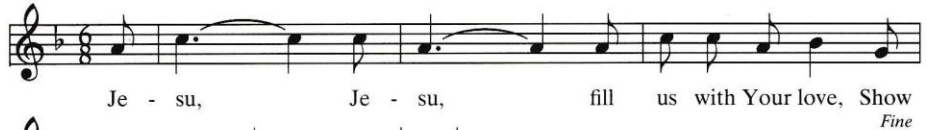
Then Jesus went about among the villages teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority... So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

## 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** *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love* | #367, v2 Red Hymnal



- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. Kneels at the feet of His friends,  | Si - lent - ly wash - es their  |
| 2. Neigh-bors are rich and poor,       | Var - ied in col - or and       |
| 3. These are the ones we should serve, | These are the ones we should    |
| 4. Lov - ing puts us on our knees,     | Serv - ing as though we are     |
| 5. Kneel at the feet of our friends,   | Si - lent - ly wash - ing their |



feet,	Mas - ter who acts as a slave	to them.
race,	Neigh-bors are near and far	a - way.
love.	All are neigh-bors to us	and You.
slaves,	This is the way we should live	with You.
feet,	This is the way we should live	with You.



# 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 *Spirit Song* – by John Wimber, ©1980 Mercy Publishing

## \*Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Thank you, Holy One, for this simple sacred meal. Help us to be nurtured and strengthened by it to be more like Jesus. Amen.**

## \*Song of Parting *Sent Out in Jesus' Name* | #2184 [Blue Songbook](#)

Sent out in Je - sus' name, our hands are rea - dy now to  
make the earth the place in which the king - dom comes.  
The an - gels can - not change a world of hurt and pain in -  
to a world of love, of jus - tice and of peace. The  
task is ours to do, to set it real - ly free. O  
help us to o - bey and car - ry out your will.

## **\*Benediction**

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

**\*Music for Going Forth** *National Hymn* – by George William Warren,  
c.1892-94

## **UCC Justice Moments**

The United Church of Christ is a blend of four historic traditions — Congregational, Christian, Evangelical, and Reformed — and many newer traditions. Each has left a mark on U.S. religious and political history. Here are just some of the many ways the UCC and its predecessor bodies have led the way through ministry

### **1620: Pilgrims seek spiritual freedom**

Seeking spiritual freedom, forbears of the United Church of Christ prepare to leave Europe for the New World. Later generations know them as the Pilgrims. Their pastor, John Robinson, urges them as they depart to keep their minds and hearts open to new ways. God, he says, “has yet more light and truth to break forth out of his holy Word.

### **1630: Early experiment in democracy**

The Congregational churches founded by the Pilgrims and other spiritual reformers spread rapidly through New England. In an early experiment in democracy, each congregation is self-governing and elects its own ministers. The Congregationalists aim to create a model for a just society lived in the presence of God. Their leader, John Winthrop, prays that “we shall be as a city upon a hill ... the eyes of all people upon us.

### **1777: Reformed congregation saves Liberty Bell**

The British occupy Philadelphia — seat of the rebellious Continental Congress — and plan to melt down the Liberty Bell to manufacture cannons. The Bell is safely hidden under the floorboards of Old Zion Reformed Church in Allentown.

# 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.

## Town Hall Responses

To those of you who were able to attend the Town Hall Meeting, thank you! Your thoughts are valuable to the life of the church, and much appreciated. If you were unable to attend the Town Hall on June 30th, your Church Council would still love to have your input. It's important to us as we make future plans for PUCC. You can scan the QR code to fill out the questions, or you can turn your thoughts on the following questions into the basket in the Gathering Space at church or email your responses to Jackie Eiffert by July 15th. [jeiffert2@gmail.com](mailto:jeiffert2@gmail.com)



What's your favorite thing about Parkway? In other words, what do you love?

Which activities do you regularly attend? Are you aware of book clubs, the Interfaith group, children's and youth events, service activities, fellowship opportunities? What new programs/events would you like to see?

What feeds your spirit in our worship services? How can you imagine worship being more meaningful for you? What could you do to help make Sunday morning more impactful for you and others?

Your Church Council wants and needs to keep the lines of communication with the congregation open. What else would you like to share with us – i.e. celebrations, concerns, needs, ideas?

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

### **"How To Be an LGBTQ+ Ally," by Debbie Reinhardt**

July 07 | Heritage Room | 11:15am

The annual Pride St Louis will be June 29-30! Whether you will have participated or not, there is more work to do in and through our Open & Affirming congregation.

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, the definition of an ally is "one that is associated with another as a helper." As allies for the LGBTQIA+ community, there are a number of ways we can stand with these beloved children of God. Join Debbie Reinhardt, LGBTQIA+ ally, advocate, and former leader of the LGBTQ+ Family Support Network, after worship on July 7.

### **"Hosting an International Exchange Student; Try It, You'll Remember It Forever," by Sydney Finan**

July 14 | Heritage Room | 11:15am

Sydney Finan is the local liaison and recruiter for AFS-USA, a program that empowers people to become globally engaged citizens by delivering meaningful intercultural experiences that provide the knowledge and skills needed to help create a more just and peaceful world.

The program pairs foreign students with a host family in the St. Louis area. Syd walks the walk and talks the talk. Her husband and she are hosting their 19th student (from 16 countries). She has many stories to share.

### **"I am no longer a Juvenile Lifer," by Juan Gonzalez**

July 21 | Heritage Room | 11:15am

This is Juan's story:

On April 9, 2019, Juan walked out of prison after 29 years. He calls that Chapter 1. It started when he was incarcerated at 17 years old. Sentenced to die in prison as a child, his father's deep faith sustained him.

Then the Philadelphia based Youth Sentencing and Reentry Program stepped in to help Juan prepare for his resentencing hearing following the Supreme Court decision that made his automatic juvenile life without parole sentence unconstitutional.

The mission of YSRP is to keep children out of adult jails and prisons, and to bring home people, like Juan, who were sentenced as children to life in prison without the possibility of parole ("Juvenile Lifers"). Finally, the Philadelphia District Attorney recommended to the Court time served. Juan's freedom became a real possibility.

Juan's parents were there as he walked out into his life's second chapter. He soon found work, lived with his parents for his first two years at home, and later bought a new car and his own home.

Chapter Two, the transition, went well. Juan made his life about "showing people who I am, not what I've been through." As Juan grows older, he knows there is a lot of life ahead: "I did 30 years, but they didn't do me." On to Chapter Three.

All programs start following worship service at 11:15am in the Heritage Room. Please contact Richard Scherrer for any questions or comments  
90fivetpr@gmail.com

## **PUCC Old Historic Cemetery Cleanup**

Sunday, July 7 | 11:30am-1:00pm | 1930 Windmoor Pl, Saint Louis, MO

We hope to clean up the old historic cemetery and then develop a regular maintenance schedule. Following worship on July 7th, we need 10 individuals (families welcome) to meet in the front parking to caravan to the cemetery. Please bring gloves, rakes, loppers, handheld pruners, a hedge trimmer and a gas powered weed eater. We will hopefully have access to Parkway's shredder. Additionally, consider bringing a hat, sunscreen, and bug repellent. I will provide lawn bags and cold drinks.

Please email, phone, or text Joe Biondo to confirm your attendance at [ljbiondo@yahoo.com](mailto:ljbiondo@yahoo.com) or 314-712-1479. Thanks!

## **Inquirers Gathering**

Monday, July 8 | 7:00-8:15pm | Parkway UCC, Heritage Room

An inquirer is someone who wants to know more about Parkway UCC and who wants to be known as well.

The next PARKWAY UCC Inquirers' Gathering is just around the corner. Our goals that evening include:

- getting to know one another a bit more
- describing Parkway's worship, outreach, education, leadership, fellowship
- taking a look at our denomination, the United Church of Christ
- sharing ideas about the exciting future of Parkway UCC
- soliciting your thoughts on how we can be a more welcoming and inviting community of faith
- discussing some key issues of faith
- answering any of your questions

You will find our time together meaningful and informative.

Some churches call this sort of gathering a New Members Class – we do not.

While we do know that there are some visitors who have expressed interest in becoming members of the church, we do not assume that Inquirers are seeking membership. We just want to be hospitable, get to know you and have the chance to express gratitude for your presence among us.

\*\*Childcare is available that evening if requested ahead of time.

Please let us know if you are planning to be with us!

[kevin@parkwayucc.org](mailto:kevin@parkwayucc.org); 314-872-9330

## **The Upper Room Small Group**

Wednesday, July 10 | 1-2pm | Gathering Space

Come as you are and take part in our Upper Room Small Group. We'll be following The Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide once a week on Wednesday afternoons. Pretty laid back with some guided questions to help stir the spirit. Copies of the devotional are available for free in the Gathering Space. This will be a weekly event on Wednesdays. We would love to have you! For more info, contact Gabriel R. [gabriel@parkwayucc.org](mailto:gabriel@parkwayucc.org).

## **AMOE: Adventurous Men Out Early**

Thursday, July 11 | 9:15am | 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 [gofivetpr@gmail.com](mailto:gofivetpr@gmail.com).

## **Summer Bible Study: Ecclesiastes – July 14**

Sunday, July 14 | 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. 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](mailto:gabriel@parkwayucc.org).

## **Coffee and Conversation**

Friday, July 19 | 10am | Daily Bread on Manchester in Kirkwood

Join us for a beverage and sweet treat. Come connect!

Future dates for Coffee and Conversation:

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](mailto:kevin@parkwayucc.org); 314-872-9330

## **Parkway Night at the Muny—Fiddler on the Roof**

Friday, July 19 | 6:00-10:00pm | Muny Opera—Forest Park

Come and join us for a lovely night at the Muny seeing the iconic musical Fiddler on the Roof. We will get a private backstage tour before the performance and then sit together in discounted seats to watch the performance.

Fiddler on the Roof returns for its 11th Muny production. The legendary musical tells the story of Tevye the milkman, who clings to the Jewish customs of Anatevka, his hometown in pre-Revolutionary Russia. As his daughters question these old-fashioned traditions and the world changes ominously around them, Tevye is challenged to find a new way to learn and to love. For more info, contact Dan Connors [connorsd@aol.com](mailto:connorsd@aol.com).

## **Party People Needed!** Help Isaiah 58 Ministries Community Celebrations

2149 S Grand Blvd, St Louis MO 63104

**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.

PUCC 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](mailto: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 12-count colored pencils, and if possible, 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](mailto:s.dodge@hotmail.com)

## **Prayer Corner An opportunity to pray with someone**

Tuesday, July 23 | 3-5pm | 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, 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](mailto:kevin@parkwayucc.org); 314-872-9330

## **PUCC Adventurers Visit the Missouri History Museum**

Thursday, July 25 | 9:30am-1:30pm | Missouri History Museum

You are invited to go with the PUCC Adventurers and get to know other PUCCers as we take a trip to the Missouri History Museum. We'll tour the new 1904 World's Fair exhibit. Admission is free. The Museum's previous World's Fair exhibit was on display for 20 years. Some of the things are the same in the updated exhibit, and some are shown from new and different perspectives. Outside voices have been brought in—Filipino American artist Ria Unson, African American scholar Linda Nance, and author Patrick Murphy—to help tell a more nuanced story of the fair. The gallery is a space to both celebrate the fair and its legacy and to examine its inequities and injustices.

Meet at Parkway UCC at 9:30 a.m. for carpooling or at 10:00 a.m. at the Missouri History Museum at Forest Park, 5700 Lindell Blvd., 63112.

After the museum we'll have lunch at Blueberry Hill on the Delmar Loop, 6504 Delmar, 63130.

Contact Jackie Eiffert for more information or to RSVP: [jeiffert2@gmail.com](mailto:jeiffert2@gmail.com)

## Day Mission Trip—STL Area Foodbank

Saturday, Aug. 17 and 24 | 8am-12pm | 70 Corporate Woods Drive  
Parkway is doing a new thing! For our mission trip this year, we are offering volunteer opportunities with Saint Louis Area Foodbank on the Saturdays of Aug. 17 and 24 from 8am-12pm. We have 10 slots reserved for PUCC, but they fill up *fast*, so if you're committed to UCC's value of **SERVICE**, scan the QR code to sign-up *today or visit* at [stlfoodbank.org](http://stlfoodbank.org) for one, or both, of those dates. For more info, contact Gabriel R. [gabriel@parkwayucc.org](mailto:gabriel@parkwayucc.org).



## Local UCC VBS Events

If your family is interested in signing up for VBS, here are some of our local UCC siblings that are doing one this summer!

- **St. John UCC in Chesterfield** July 15-19, 9am-12pm
- **St. John UCC in Manchester** July 22-25, 5-8pm





# Prayer List

Wednesday, July 03, 2024

## Celebrations

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

**Rocco Stolze and family** - healing from gender affirming surgery.

**All impacted by Hurricane Beryl.**

**US Independence Day.**

## Concerns

**Chris Zoller** - strengthening after last week's surgery.

**John Force & family** - healing after race car crash (McKenzie).

**The continuing war in Ukraine.**

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

## Continuing

**Kathleen Tarr** - outpatient psychiatric treatment program.

**David Smith** - receiving palliative care at home (Deb Carter's father).

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

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

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

**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; #132; Creve Coeur, MO 63141; 314-434-5900 [birthdate: April 7]

## **Other**

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

**Gerry and Mike Rogers** - great-grandson *Myles* due in August.

**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.**

**PUCG 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.

## ***Who's That Knocking?***

Vicki Kemper

*As soon as Peter realized he was free from prison, he went to the house of Mary. When he knocked at the outer gate, a maid named Rhoda came to answer. On recognizing Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed that, instead of letting him in, she ran and announced that Peter was standing at the gate. They said to her, "You are out of your mind!" But she insisted that it was so. They said, "It is his angel." Meanwhile Peter continued knocking, and when they opened the gate they saw him and were amazed. –Acts 12:12-16 (adapted)*

The older I get, the more I'm convinced that I should accept and celebrate every little bit of good news that comes my way—no matter how improbable. Sure, I may end up looking the fool. But ... so what?

You can have your skepticism and calm, measured reactions; I want to develop an impulse for rejoicing. I'd like my knee-jerk reaction to the surprisingly wonderful to be deep gratitude for a grace I never would have expected. I want to be the first to exclaim, "Of course, this amazing thing has happened!"

This takes a lot of intention, practice, and a willingness to be wrong, because life teaches us just the opposite: to develop a thick skin, to protect ourselves from disappointment, to distrust good fortune because life is hard and awful things happen to salt-of-the-earth people. God knows there's more than enough horror and hurt to go around.

But if I practice the presence of Love, if I ground myself firmly in God's grace, goodness, and mercy, I just might find myself surprised by joy on the regular.

### **Prayer**

Keep knocking at the door to my heart, O God, that I might be more fully opened to the reality of your grace.

# 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday *after* Pentecost

July 07, 2024

**Mark 6:1–13**

***Sent with Power***

Mark 6:7-9 tells us that (*Jesus*) called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. (from the NRSV)

Some folks in the United Church of Christ jokingly refer to evangelism as “the e-word.” Evangelist simply means “messenger of good news.” And yet, the word has become associated with the most damaging aspects of Christian experience. Even the the idea of evangelism can call to mind uncomfortable or even traumatizing past experiences. And yet, as Jesus called those early disciples to a life of evangelism, he calls followers today.

Take some time today to consider the word evangelist.

Do you think the idea of United Church of Christ evangelism can be refreshed and renewed for a new generation? How might that be accomplished?

How do you feel when you hear the word evangelism? Pay attention to where the word settles in your body. Do you feel quite comfortable? Very uncomfortable? Why do you think you have that response?

What do you think the role of an evangelist is? How does the role in modern times echo the call that Jesus made to his original disciples?

What are some ways that your faith community engages in evangelism now? What are some ways that your community could evangelize that it does not yet?