





www.parkwayucc.org

September 08, 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 | 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** Dawn Jones-Goldstein. Consider signing up to read scripture by scanning the QR code.

**Flowers** given by Joe and Lana Biondo – remembering their parents. Please consider honoring, remembering or celebrating someone by providing flowers for worship. 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://warmlines.org/warmdir.html>

## Birthdays

09/10 Kennedy Lawson

09/12 Evie Alul

09/12 Grant Oehler

09/13 Mark Sableman

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

Sunday, September 08, 2024 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

**Prelude** *Four Variations Set on “St. Thomas” (I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord)*  
– Variations by David, tune “St. Thomas” by Aaron Williams (1770), ©2018  
by Lorenz Publishing Co.

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

**Meditation** Jonah’s opposition to God’s grace is not unusual. Jonah’s response anticipates the older brother in the Parable of the Prodigal Son; anticipates the workers hired first in the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard; and it anticipates those of us who find it extremely difficult to follow Jesus’ eminently clear and straightforward admonition to “love your enemies”. The Book of Jonah ends with a question that Jonah does not answer, and this open-ended conclusion effectively suggests that the question is now ours to answer. Will we do any better than Jonah when it comes to resisting the pervasive and persistent temptation to restrict the scope of God’s concern to us and to our kind of people? ~ Clint McCann

## **Passing the Peace of Christ**

“May the peace of Christ be with you.”

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

## **Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell**

**Choral Introit** *Bless The Lord* – based on familiar Taize chant, ©1998 by Ateliers et Presses de Taize (France) - special arr. by BKL for Sanctuary Choir  
Bless the Lord, my soul,  
And bless God’s holy name.  
Bless the Lord, my soul,  
Who leads me into life.

**Welcome Song** *Holy Ground* | #2272 *Blue Songbook*

We are stand - ing \_\_\_\_\_ on ho - ly ground, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ and I know that there are an - gels all a -  
round; \_\_\_\_\_ let us praise \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Je - sus now; \_\_\_\_\_ we are  
stand - ing in his pres - ence on ho - ly ground. \_\_\_\_\_

**Scripture** Psalm 82 | New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

God has taken his place in the divine council;  
in the midst of the gods he holds judgment:  
“How long will you judge unjustly  
and show partiality to the wicked?  
Give justice to the weak and the orphan;  
maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute.  
Rescue the weak and the needy;  
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”  
They have neither knowledge nor understanding,  
they walk around in darkness;  
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.  
I say, “You are gods,  
children of the Most High, all of you;  
nevertheless, you shall die like mortals,  
and fall like any prince.”  
Rise up, O God, judge the earth;  
for all the nations belong to you!



## \*Call to Worship UCC Worship Ways

One:	God of Life,
<b>Many:</b>	<b>You are as near to us as our breath.</b>
One:	Touch our eyes,
<b>Many:</b>	<b>that we may see you in one another.</b>
One:	Open our ears,
<b>Many:</b>	<b>that we may hear your voice in the cries of the oppressed.</b>
One:	Enter our hearts,
<b>Many:</b>	<b>that we may be filled with your love toward all people.</b>
One:	Come, O God of life and breath and wholeness.
<b>All:</b>	<b>Be with us now. Show us the way to new life and help us have the courage to be people of your Way.</b>

## \*Song *O For a World* | #386 Red Hymnal



1. O for a world where ev - ery-one Re - spects each oth - er's ways,
2. O for a world where goods are shared And mis - er - y re - lieved,
3. We wel - come one world fam - i - ly And strug - gle with each choice
4. The poor are rich, the weak are strong, The fool - ish ones are wise.



Where love is lived and all is done With jus - tice and with praise.  
Where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, E - qual - i - ty a - chieved.  
That o - pens us to u - ni - ty And gives our vi - sion - voice.  
Tell all who mourn; Out - casts be - long, Who per - ish - es will rise.

## \*Opening Prayer UCC Worship Ways

**Thank you, God, for delighting in us and being patient with us even now, for forgiving us our slow action, our silence and our weariness, for empowering our work and inviting us once again to create with you the Beloved Community you long for and we all need. Amen.**

## \*Response *Spirit of the Living God* | #322 Red Hymnal

**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** For children under the age of 3, parents are invited to take them to Room 01 (upper level) where one of our teachers will meet them at the door. Children and youth will gather in Room 13 (lower level) for the Opening Session. Children from age 3 to 5<sup>th</sup> grade will then go to Room 12, and youth from 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade will go to Room 15. For children in Room 01, parents please pick them up after worship. Children and youth from age 3 thru high school can be met in the Gathering Space just outside the Sanctuary after worship, as the teachers will bring them back upstairs after class.

**Blessing the Children** *Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands*

Je - sus' hands were kind hands, do - ing good to all. Heal - ing pain and  
 Take my hands, Lord Je - sus, let them work for you. Make them strong and

sick - ness, bless - ing child - ren small. Wash - ing tir - ed feet and  
 gen - tle, kind in all I do. Let me watch you, Je - sus,

sav - ing those who fall. Je - sus' hands were kind hands, do - ing good to all.  
 till I'm gen - tle too. Till my hands are kind hands, quick to work for you.

**Scripture** Psalm 72:1-7, 12-14, 16-17 | New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Give the king your justice, O God,  
 and your righteousness to a king's son.  
 May he judge your people with righteousness,  
 and your poor with justice.  
 May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,  
 and the hills, in righteousness.  
 May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,  
 give deliverance to the needy,  
 and crush the oppressor.  
 May he live while the sun endures,  
 and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.  
 May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,  
 like showers that water the earth.  
 In his days may righteousness flourish  
 and peace abound, until the moon is no more.  
 For he delivers the needy when they call,  
 the poor and those who have no helper.  
 He has pity on the weak and the needy,  
 and saves the lives of the needy.  
 From oppression and violence he redeems their life;  
 and precious is their blood in his sight.

May there be abundance of grain in the land;  
 may it wave on the tops of the mountains;  
 may its fruit be like Lebanon;  
 and may people blossom in the cities  
 like the grass of the field.  
 May his name endure forever,  
 his fame continue as long as the sun.  
 May all nations be blessed in him;  
 may they pronounce him happy.

## Moment of Silent Reflection

**Sermon** *The Whole World in God's Hands* | Clint McCann

**Invitation to Prayer** *God of the Sparrow* | #272 Red Hymnal



1. God of the spar - row God of the whale  
 3. God of the rain - bow God of the cross  
 5. God of the neigh - bor God of the foe



God of the swirl - ing stars                      How does the crea-ture say  
 God of the emp - ty grave                      How does the crea-ture say  
 God of the prun - ing hook                      How does the crea-ture say



Awe                      How does the crea-ture say                      Praise  
 Grace                      How does the crea-ture say                      Thanks  
 Love                      How does the crea-ture say                      Peace



2. God of the earth-quake God of the storm                      God of the trum - pet  
 4. God of the hun - gry God of the sick                      God of the prod - i -  
 6. God of the a - ges God near at hand                      God of the lov - ing



blast                      How does the crea-ture cry                      Woe  
 gal                      How does the crea-ture say                      Care  
 heart                      How do your chil-dren say                      Joy



How does the crea-ture cry                      Save                      How do your chil-dren say                      Home  
 How does the crea-ture say                      Life



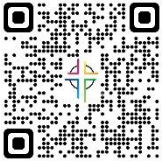
## Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People

**Lord's Prayer** sung to the tune by Nate Stout

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

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

## 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** *Be Thou My Vision* – arr. by Richard Shephard, based on the tune Slane, original words by Eleanor H. Hull (1912), ©2014 St. James Music Press

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art.  
Thou my best thought by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, thy presence, my light.  
Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.  
High King of heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach heav'n's joys, O heaven's bright sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever be fall,  
Still by my vision, O Ruler of all.

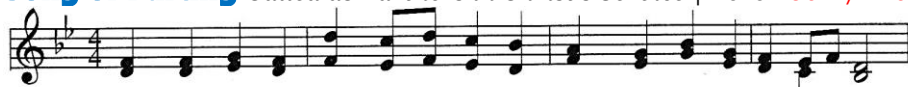
**\*Response** *Here I am, Lord* | #525 Red Hymnal

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication** Quentin Chin

**Holy One, we give in grateful thanksgiving for all that You have given to us. In the upside down world of the gospel, we measure our wealth not by what we have, but what we can give away. Let us give away generously, in this offering, to bless Your church, Your people, Your creation. Amen.**

**\*Song of Parting** *Called as Partners in Christ's Service* | #343 Red Hymnal



1. Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, Called to min-is-tries of grace,
2. Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
3. Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, In a small or glob-al sense,
4. So God grant us for to-mor-row Ways to or-der hu-man life



We re-pond with deep com-mit-ment Fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
Let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, Rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.  
Help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, Break-ing down each wall or fence.  
That sur-round each per-son's sor-row With a calm that con-quers strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, Side by side and friend with friend,  
Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, All God's peo-ple, young and old,  
Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, Words of chal-lenge, said with care,  
Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, Our com-pas-sion to in-crease,



E-qual part-ners in our car-ing To ful-fill God's cho-sen end,  
Blend-ing hu-man skills to-geth-er Gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.  
Bring new power and strength for ac-tion, Make us col-leagues, free and fair.  
Mes-sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing Hope and con-fi-dence and peace.

**\*Benediction**

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

**\*Music for Going Forth Celebration** – by James Mansfield, ©MCMLXXXII  
by Lorenz Publishing Co.

## **LAST WEEK**

This is the beginning of the year; however, our Bible reading for today starts in the second chapter of Genesis. Genesis 1 is a beautiful description of creation that emphasizes God making all things *good!*

## **THIS WEEK**

At the beginning of creation God makes a promise to the first humans, but they quickly break the promise they make to God (Genesis 2:4b-7, 15-17, 3:1-8).

## **THE POINT**

God loves us, even when we do the wrong thing.

## **BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS**

The Hebrew Bible—the Old Testament—was written over a period of several hundred years by different authors. According to tradition, Moses wrote the first five books, including Genesis. However, scholars believe that these books were gathered from earlier stories during a difficult time for the Jewish people, around 600 BCE.

## **PRACTICE: PRAYER**

One of the last things that Jesus did on the night before he died was pray for the unity of his people. Sit quietly and read this prayer of Jesus found in John 17. After you have read this prayer, spend some time meditating on the words. Write or draw your own prayerful response to Jesus' prayer for all of us.

## **STORY SUMMARY**

After God made the earth, God formed the first humans. These humans, Adam and Eve, were called by God to care for the garden of Eden. God gave them permission to eat any of the fruit that grew there, with one exception. The crafty serpent encouraged Eve to question God's rules and love for humankind. She decided that God was keeping the best from them rather than giving them the best of creation. Both humans ate the forbidden fruit. God had given them everything, including a perfect relationship with God, but they followed the words of the serpent and disobeyed God. Their betrayal damaged their relationship with God. Sin and brokenness came between humankind and God.

## **NEXT WEEK**

God promises Abram (Abraham), that he and his wife Sarai (Sarah) will have many descendants, even though they are old and have no children (Genesis 15:1-6).

## 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: Genesis 2:4b-7, 15-17; 3:1-8**

The first humans disobey the rule God gave them. What does it feel like when you know you are doing something you should not do?

### **MONDAY: Genesis 3:9-19**

God declares the consequences of Adam and Eve's disobedience. What relationships were affected as a result of their disobedience?

### **TUESDAY: Genesis 6:9-22**

God makes a covenant with Noah and gives him directions for building the ark. Why did God decide to send a flood? And why did God choose Noah to build the ark?

### **WEDNESDAY: Genesis 7:17-24; 8:6-12**

The floods come. How do you think Noah and his family felt as the days went by during the flood?

### **THURSDAY: Genesis 9:8-17**

God establishes a covenant and provides a sign of that covenant. Why do you think God provided such a clear and recurring sign of the covenant?

### **FRIDAY: Genesis 11:1-9**

The people try to build a tower to reach the heavens. Why does God respond in the way God does to the building of the tower of Babel?

### **SATURDAY: Genesis 12:1-7**

God calls Abram. What do God ask Abram to do in these verses, and what does God promise him? What was Abram's response?

# 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.

## **WELCOME, Reverend Doctor Clint McCann!**

Dr. Clint McCann is a biblical scholar specializing in the Psalms. He has written numerous publications and served as chair for the Psalms Section of the Society of Biblical Literature. He has also worked as a Consulting Translator for the Book of Psalms and written introductions and annotations for The Common English Bible (CEB) Study Bible. He frequently teaches and gives lectures beyond his Eden Seminary campus, having taught in 27 states. His interests extend to the intersection of religion and culture, with a particular interest in music. Dr. McCann is committed to multicultural education and has led student groups to various Central American countries. He is also active in several international organizations and believes in practicing what he teaches. In his personal time, he enjoys sports and is a Teaching Elder in the Presbyterian Church. He has a family and has previously served as a pastor. Welcome and thank you for being with us today, Dr McCann!

## **Speaker Series Occasional opportunities after worship at 11:15am "Well Bless my Soul (and Yours too)," by the Rev. Clint McCann.**

Sunday, September 8 | 11:15am | Heritage Room

In many religious and philosophical traditions, the soul is the non-material essence of a person, which includes one's identity, personality, and memories; the essence of a living being that is believed to be able to survive physical death.

That is the general view, but what about a deeper dive? For that, we call upon Parkway mentor and friend, the Rev. Clint McCann to provide a further exploration and explanation of this soulful topic. Rev. McCann is the Evangelical Professor of Biblical Interpretation at Eden Seminary. He has authored books, is a widely acclaimed lecturer, and acts out his faith volunteering for social justice programs, such as CROP, Bread for the World, and Heifer International.

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](mailto:90fivetpr@gmail.com)

## **Parkway UCC Adventurers Planning**

Monday, September 9 | 9-11am | 11692 Manchester Rd, Des Peres, MO

Come to a Dutch brunch and help plan activities for 2024 at Sunny Street 11692 Manchester Road at Lockett in Des Peres. We have reserved a room just for us. We hope participants will share the joy of planning and coordinating trips from November 2024 through December 2025. The group will head to Eckert's in Illinois for apple and pumpkin picking on October 4, 2024. More information on that later. RSVP Carol Cobb at [cjcoobb@aol.com](mailto:cjcoobb@aol.com).



## Tuesday Evening Dialogue

September 10 | 6-8pm | Heritage Room

Please join us for our second session on the book *The Secret Life of Sunflowers* by Marta Molnar on September 10. This book is historical fiction based on the true story of the woman Johanna Bonger who was responsible for introducing Vincent Van Gogh's artwork and his legacy to the world. She was Van Gogh's widowed sister-in-law who inherited his paintings, sketches and letters. This book not only tells the stories of Ms. Bonger and Van Gogh but also demonstrates how strong women accomplish great things by persistence. We will be covering up to Chapter 24 of the book that evening.

Pot Luck at 6pm followed by book discussion ending at 7:30 that evening. AWOL will be holding the Debate Watch that evening in the Heritage Room directly following TED. Please join us and stay for the Debate Watch too! For questions, please contact Helen Race at [raceh@att.net](mailto:raceh@att.net).

## Go AWOL with us - Adventurous Women Out Late

Come begin, strengthen or renew relationships with other PUCC women.

Tuesday, Sept 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm: DEBATE WATCH PARTY at church – Heritage Room. Bring a blanket and a snack! Thanks to Julie Connors for this idea!

Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup> 7pm: FREE SYMPHONY CONCERT/  
FIREWORKS ON ART HILL

This is one of many amazing annual events in St Louis. You will not be disappointed. Meet at church to carpool to Forest Park at 5:30pm

Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup> 2pm: Repertory Theater: THE ROOMMATE (tix TBA) "I guess everybody wants to start over." In the quietest corner of the Midwest, middle-aged Sharon, recently divorced and seeking a sensible roommate, opens her home to Robyn, a mysterious woman with a murky past. Entwining this unlikely duo's lives in shared dish-duty and shady business, Jen Silverman takes us on an uproarious journey of self-discovery, secrets and revelations. Challenge societal norms, embrace the unexpected, and revel in the reinvention that only true friendship can spark in this dark comedy that proves coming of age can happen anytime, anywhere- even your own kitchen table!

RSVP by **September 8th** to [cbum@charter.net](mailto:cbum@charter.net). Tickets are \$60.

Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 5pm: Dinner and Movie

Join us for a lovely dinner and a great movie at Plaza Frontenac, More details to come as we get closer to the date.

Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm: STIFEL THEATER: Celtic Woman Christmas Symphony (\$70)

They will help us get into the season! Experience a taste at <https://www.celticwoman.com/>

RSVP by **September 8th** to [cbum@charter.net](mailto:cbum@charter.net)

Please reach out to [Kevin@parkwayucc.org](mailto:Kevin@parkwayucc.org) if finances are hindering your participation in any of these events.

## **The Upper Room Small Group**

Wednesday, September 11 | 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.

## **ART EXHIBIT: "Be the Miracle" Meditative Paintings & Poetry by Angela L. Chostner**

Thursday, Sept. 12 | 4:30-7:30pm | 13525 Clayton Rd., Saint Louis, MO 63141

Join us at Longview Farm Park Art Gallery for an evening of peaceful art and deep discussion! PUCcEr Angela L. Chostner is a solo exhibition, free and open to the public. Angela's vision for this experience of art is anchored in what transforms all life - Light, Sound, Water, Time and Wind. It is layered with the energy of virtues of acceptance, flexibility, trust, truthfulness, creativity and reverence. It carries intentions for healing. It speaks the universal language of the heart and honors the divine spark within us all. Light refreshments served. Looking forward to seeing you there!

For more info, contact Angela Chostner at: achostner@gmail.com

## **Helping with Special Olympics Bocce Tournament**

Saturday, Sept. 14 | 11am-3pm | 123 Leon Hall Pkwy, Hillsboro, MO, 63050

Join us for the St. Louis Metro Area Special Olympics Bocce Tournament at Hillsboro High School.

We are looking for four people to join Kevin in helping to facilitate games, cheer for the athletes, keep score of matches and assist with breakdown and loading of bocce courts into SOMO vehicles at the end of the day.

Don't fret if you aren't a trained bocce professional ... when we arrive, there will be training to go over the game and its rules ~ no prior knowledge of bocce is needed!

To sign up or find more information, please contact kevin@parkwayucc.org

\* A free SOMO volunteer t-shirt is part of the deal!

## **Annual Shred Day Event**

Saturday, Sept. 14 | 7am-1pm | Historic Sanctuary Parking Lot

Come bring any personal papers you need to shred! For more info, contact kathy@parkwayucc.org.

## **Fall Friendship Dinners Signup** Please sign up by September 15, 2024

It's time once again for our Fall Friendship Dinners. You can sign up to be both a host and a guest, or just sign up to be a guest. There is a signup poster in the Gathering Space; please sign up by Sunday, September 15. The Friendship Team will meet to organize groups geographically friendly for the attendees. Hosts need to provide contact information and the number of guests they can accommodate. Guests need to provide contact information. Dinners are currently planned for September, October, or early November. For additional information, or to sign up please contact Kathy Burcham at kathleenburcham@sbcglobal.net.

## Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue – September 17

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

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

You are invited to stop in on Zoom on September 3rd for TAD's next book for discussion, *Lady Tan's Circle of Women* by Lisa See. The historical novel is inspired by the true story of a woman physician in 15th -16th century China, the Ming Dynasty. It includes themes of gender roles, friendship, family hierarchies, and support systems. We'll discuss a third of the book over each of three meetings, September 3rd, 17th, and October 1st. Please join in at 1:45pm for fellowship or 2pm for discussion.

This book follows the fascinating true story of Lady Tan from childhood through adulthood as she navigates becoming a woman, and one of the first female doctors during 15th century China. The historical perspective of the book includes arranged marriages, foot binding, the justice system, and the roles of male physician and female midwife. In 1511, when Lady Tan turned fifty, she published a book of her medical cases. Interestingly, all of her cases were women and girls. Many of her remedies are still used in traditional Chinese medicine today. The author believes that Lady Tan was remarkable in her time period, and would be remarkable if she lived today.

We'd love to have you join us for one or all of the discussions.

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

## Updates in Alzheimer's and Dementia in an Era of Treatment

Tuesday, September 17 | 4:00pm | 1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd., Saint Louis, MO

Presented by the Alzheimer's Association at the Clark Family Branch STL Library, Dr. Rebecca Edelmayer, Senior Director of Scientific Engagement at the Alzheimer's Association, will share the latest news in detection, diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's and other dementia, including research being done in St. Louis. Free event! Light refreshments provided.



Registration recommended by scanning QR code.

## Marthoma VBS Shout-Out

Sept. 20, 21 | 2840 N Ballas Rd | Saint Louis, MO 63131 | Historic Sanctuary

Join Marthoma Church of Saint Louis for their 2024 Vacation Bible School on Friday, September 20 @6-8:30pm, and Saturday, September 21 @5-8:30pm.

Their theme will be: Breaker Rock Beach. For more info contact [secretary.mtcofstl@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.mtcofstl@gmail.com)

## Intertwine Interfaith

Sunday, September 22 | 3-4:30pm | Fellowship Hall

We are hosting a mission project with our Jewish and Muslim friends from Shaare Emeth and TASOM (Turkish American Society of Missouri). No prep is needed. Just come and enjoy our service opportunity and the delightful and important work of building community. RSVP or questions to [kevin@parkwayucc.org](mailto:kevin@parkwayucc.org)

## **Tower Grove Pride Volunteer Opportunity**

At the end of June, we gathered in downtown St. Louis for PrideFest 2024. Next, on September 28 and 29th, we will participate in Tower Grove Pride. This event should be cooler, it is held in beautiful Tower Grove Park, and attending by huge crowds every year.

In June we had an amazing number of people come to the tent to ask about church in general and especially the United Church of Christ. Many wanted to pick up a brochure from a church near them. Others used the QR code, giving them access to the full roster of our Open and Affirming congregations in greater St. Louis, Memphis and those in Illinois South all found on our website. Some just wanted to talk. Many were moved to tears learning that, for the first time in many years, they could share in Holy Communion with one of our pastors. It was time well spent.

Scan the QR code to volunteer to be in the tent during a portion of Tower Grove Pride. I hope you, and others from your church, will be willing to help. Please join us, in the park, on September 28 and 29. For more info, contact Lorin Cope buckeyeohio@hotmail.com



## **Jesus Has Left the Building!**

Our next JHLTB will be on Sept. 29, the fifth Sunday of the month. If you would like to be on the planning team, please contact kevin@parkwayucc.org

## **Saint Louis Metro Area Crop Walk**

Sunday, Sept. 29 | 1:30-3pm | 475 East Lockwood Webster Groves MO 63119  
The 2024 CROP HUNGER WALK will be held at Eden Seminary on Sunday, September 29. Check in time is 1:30pm and walk step off time is 2:00pm  
There is a one mile walk and 3-mile walk. Some of the monies raised go to St. Louis local organizations, Circle of Concern, Webster Rock Hill Ministries, and Crisis Food Center in Alton, IL. The remainder goes to Crop World Service for distribution to those in need.

For more details and to register, raise funds and/or donate: [www.crophungerwalk.org/saintlouismo](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/saintlouismo). Type in Parkway UCC where you may join the team or make a donation. For more information, contact Susan Moellering [susieqslp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:susieqslp@sbcglobal.net).

## **The Online AUCCtion for Humanity is Back for 2024**

The St. Louis area United Church of Christ congregations are starting to plan an AUCCtion for Humanity to be held October 1 to 21, 2024.

Right now, they need a team of volunteers to organize the AUCCtion and to collect items to be auctioned. Please check out descriptions of volunteer activities including a place to sign up. Scan QR code to sign-up.



- Most of the volunteer work can be handled at home with a phone or computer.
- Assignments can be worked on your schedule.
- Any meetings will be done on Zoom.

## Potential Donors

If you are thinking about being a donor, send an email to: [UCCforHumanity@gmail.com](mailto:UCCforHumanity@gmail.com).

## 2024 Bidders

When you are ready to sign up to be a bidder at An AUCction for Humanity register at <https://new.biddingowl.com/AUCction>.

For more info, contact Tom McKenzie [mckenzie1947@att.net](mailto:mckenzie1947@att.net)

## **Isaiah 58 Annual Celebration**

Tuesday, October 1 | 6-8pm | 3901 Shaw Ave, Saint Louis, MO 63110

You are invited to Isaiah 58 Ministries' Annual Celebration at Wild Carrot.

Tickets are \$30, which includes free hors'doeuvres plus one drink (cash bar available). RSVP by **September 27** by contacting [brenda@i58ministries.org](mailto:brenda@i58ministries.org).

## **HOLD THE DATE**

The annual Fall Business Meeting of the St. Louis Association will be held on October 5, 2024, beginning with a continental breakfast at 8am. The formal meeting will begin with worship at 9am at Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 826 Union Blvd.; Saint Louis 63108-1040; Phone: (314) 367-8173; [pilgrim826@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pilgrim826@sbcglobal.net) ; <http://www.pilgrimucc-stl.org>; Pastor Kevin Anthony

## **GONA Annual Drag Queen Bingo**

Saturday, October 12 | 6:00pm | Parkway UCC

Each year, for the last several years, Gateway Open and Affirming Churches has hosted an event to raise funds for the United Church of Christ Open and Affirming Coalition and Alliance Q of the Christian Church Disciples of Christ.

This year's event will be held at Parkway United Church of Christ on N Ballas Road in Town and Country on Saturday, October 12, 2024. Doors will open at 6:00 PM and the games will start at 6:30 PM. Registration information is available using the QR Code above and by going to the Gateway ONA website or Facebook page.

Gateway ONA is inviting your church to create and donate a gift basket of items to be placed in small rainbow bags purchased from Ikea. The bags are 17" x 10". One colorful bag will be placed on each table on top of a colorful table covering to brighten the room and contribute to this fun, spirited, event.

**So, you are being invited to donate items that can go in the bags.** We hope you too will be creative, colorful and fun in finding ways to share in this event by filling up a gift bag. Income from the silent auction of these centerpiece gift bags will go to scholarships to help people in the LGBTQIA+ community in the St. Louis Area attend General synod next July in Kansas City.

Your bag items can be brought to St. Paul Unted Church of Christ, 3510 Giles Avenue, in the Tower Grove South neighborhood, 63116 by October 4. Or, if you are planning to attend the Fall Business Meeting of the St. Louis Association on October 5, you could bring them to Pilgrim Congregational Church on Union Avenue. If it is easier, I will happily come to your church and pick up the items.



Any questions? Please contact Lorin Cope at St. Paul United Church of Christ at buckeyeohio@hotmail.com. And please respond to this email to let the planning committee know if you are willing and able to create a gift basked centerpiece for the silent auction.

Thank you, in advance, for your contribution in this way to the success of this event. And I look forward to seeing you on October 12 at 6:30 PM.

## **Trunk or Treat 2024**

Tentatively Saturday, October 26 | 5:30-7pm | Parkway UCC

Get ready to get spooky and have fun with our annual Trunk or Treat. Last year was a real hit! More information to come. If you interested in helping out, please reach out to Gabriel R. gabriel@parkwayucc.org.

## **Townhall Feedback**

The Church Council would like to thank everyone who contributed to our Town Hall Meeting by participating in a discussion on June 30th or submitting comments in writing. We had literally hundreds of responses, and we are grateful for that. Thank you to all who organized, set up and took down, attended, stayed to provide child care, brought food, washed dishes, or participated in any way.

A few high points of the feedback that Church Council received:

**Our Welcome** - People are very pleased to attend an Open and Affirming church where everyone is accepted, for our welcoming atmosphere, and for our social justice focus. At the same time some feel that we could do better at meeting each other during church and right after.

**Connection** - We crave connection. There are requests for more opportunities to connect, in church and outside of church. That would include things such as more gatherings for adults, kids, and intergenerational groups, more active passing of the peace and greeting each other, and snacks after the church service. People would like to get to know one another better.

**Leadership and Groups** - Many appreciate our church leadership and the various social, educational, and fellowship groups that we have at Parkway.

**Music** - There are many thanks, praises, suggestions, and requests regarding music during the church service.

**Church Council** - People want to hear more about what the Church Council is working on.

**More information** - If you would like to learn more about the Town Hall feedback, please email Jackie Eiffert or Nancy Litzinger at jeiffert2@gmail.com or nancywlitzinger@gmail.com for details.

**HOST A DINNER  
ACROSS  
DIFFERENCE IN  
YOUR  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
OR COMMUNITY!**



# **THE PEOPLE'S SUPPER**

*Change moves at the speed of relationship*



**TRAINING**  
The Drip Community Coffee House | 3615 Potomac St.  
September 8th, 5:00-6:30pm doors open at 4:00pm

**Join the Movement!** In what feels like an increasingly divisive world, we feel the pull toward practicing neighborliness — getting to know the people on our street, in our community, and in our organizations more deeply. So, we are promoting a People's Supper campaign during the height of election season to help remind each other what community is really about: relationship not about politics. The People's Supper uses shared meals to build trust and connection among people of different identities and perspectives. This work was born of a belief — to quote a popular adage — that “change moves at the speed of trust,” and that trust moves at the speed of relationships.

**It starts with an invitation.** Hosts will reach out to people in their communities they don't yet know to invite them to a small dinner of 6-8 people in their home, at a local restaurant, or a neutral location like a church or community center. Some of these folks might be people hosts know a little, but not deeply. Others might be people they don't know at all. And still others might be neighbors who hold different beliefs.

**Dinner is served.** Dinner is simple. Maybe everyone clips in for a pizza, or you pick some things from your summer garden to serve. Dinner (or brunch or lunch) is the mechanism of the relationship, not the point, so go simple.

**Relationships are built.** Each host will have access to a toolkit that involves a script with an introduction, ice-breaker questions, ground rules, and 3-4 discussion questions. The toolkit will also give hosts some tips for how to redirect conversation away from politics (if it comes up).

**What happens after?** After all of the dinners, hosts will be invited to debrief the experience and see if there are any natural next steps that arise.

# Prayer List

Wednesday, September 08, 2024

## Celebrations

**All the acts of kindness, justice and equity near and far.**  
**Jones-Goldstein Family as they grow** - baby girl due in October!

## Concerns

**Lisa, Ben, Josie Duke** - grieving/giving thanks for mom/grandmother Janet Rothman; Memorial Service was here last Saturday.

**Bill and Pat Owens** - as he began cancer treatments last week.

**Evelyn Buretta** - preparing for knee surgery on September 12.

**The continuing war in Ukraine and Russia.**

**War in the Mideast** - including Israel and Hamas.

## Continuing

**Shara Storm** - undergoing treatments for cancer (Stifel).

**Carol Combs** - end of life journey (Reinhardt).

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

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

**Kari Borgmann** - her mom turned 100 this year; 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 (John and Joyce Ruiz).

**Joseph Miller** - long road to healing (son of Deb Carter).

**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**

**Lewis Junior Burcham** - *The Glenwood*; 1635 N. Baltimore Ave; Mt. Zion, IL 62549; 217-864-1757 [birthday: January 15]

**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; 314-993-0469 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** - 13510 Weston Park Dr; STL, MO 63131; 314-369-4885 [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**

**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.

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**Drivers needed** From time to time, PUCers are in need of rides to medical appts when their usual circle of support is unavailable. Please let kevin@parkwayucc.org know and he will add you to the call list. Thanks!

## **Cheering for one another - *Life Is a Marathon*** Molly Baskette

*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing. - 2 Timothy 4:7-8 (NIV)*

All right all right Paul, we get it with all your braggadocious “I” statements above. Jesus loves you better; you’re gonna get the first-place ribbon while the rest of us can only hope for a participation trophy.

But what’s that there in the last line? Is that an “all” I spy? Like, somehow even us third-rate Jesus people can take turns wearing the crown? It’s almost like you recognize that whatever race you have finished, you didn’t do it alone

My goddaughter just ran the New York Marathon last fall, her first. She wasn’t fast enough to be a regular entrant, so she qualified by raising funds for a NYC antipoverty agency.

She said mile 19 was the hardest, when there was still so far to go and her friends and family up ahead weren’t yet in view. That’s when she started running closer to the curb and the cheering watchers. She’d written her name on her arm in Sharpie, and people called out, “Go Ruby Go! You’re doing great!”

She was encouraged by the signs people held up: “Remember Your Why,” “Blink if you peed a little,” and a giant avatar of Taylor Swift cooing “In your marathon era!” Mile after mile, they kept her going. A 6-year-old girl ran out of the crowd, took her hand, and jogged along with her for a second, shouting, “Don’t give up! You look beautiful!”

What would the world look like, she wondered aloud, if we cheered for one another like that every single day?

### *Prayer:*

Queen, until your appearing, may we cheer and be cheered during the most challenging stretches of this marathon of living. Amen.



## Be Opened

*16th Sunday after Pentecost*

**Mark 7:24-37**

Can you imagine your life being changed for the better with just a gentle touch, a loving word or even a compassionate smile?

The people we encounter in Mark's Gospel can. Their stories, packed into what is the shortest of the four gospels, tell of how the Son of God brings healing and hope to all he meets.

Rich, poor, men, women, children, sinners, outcasts — it doesn't matter who you are. There's nothing Jesus can't do to turn our lives around. But for that to happen, we must ask: Are we opened to the Divine impossible possibilities?

Mark brings us today a perfect illustration of new life in the healing of the deaf and mute man.

In the story, Jesus starts by placing his fingers in the deaf man's ears. Jesus is acknowledging nonverbally his understanding of what the problem is. It's a loving act that puts the man at ease.

He then spits on his fingers and touches the deaf man's tongue. Yes, a cringy moment for our modern sensibilities, but spit was believed to have healing qualities in ancient times.

The final step in this healing comes with Jesus' sigh, "Ephphatha!" — which is Aramaic for "be opened."

And with that, a man whose life was closed from the community because of his disability, opens to belonging and acceptance.

The word "Ephphatha" only appears eight times in the New Testament, almost always with stories of healing. It is a word, though, that we should add to our spiritual vocabularies, as the reminder to "be opened" is an important one in the healing of whatever needs to be healed in our lives.

Too often doubt and cynicism take over our lives, closing us off to the that healing of body, mind and spirit. Yet Jesus sees our situations and sighs, "Be opened!" For what has being closed to God's possibilities done for us?

In the Catholic tradition there is an optional baptismal rite that parents can request as part of the sacrament where the priest says a prayer as he touches the infant's ears and then mouth. The prayer is for the child to hear God's voice and to speak of God's grace as they grow. As you might have already guessed, it is known as the Ephphatha Rite.

Take a moment this day to touch your ears and then your mouth, praying to hear the Divine speaking to you and for the grace to speak words of love.

Caring Healer, may today we "be opened" to the many ways you are renewing, reviving and restoring us. May we hear Your Son's loving word spoken to us now and always, "Ephphatha!" Amen.