



**Celebrating  
20 Years  
of Ministry  
Together**



www.parkwayucc.org

September 15, 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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# 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** Sue Stohr. Consider signing up to read scripture by scanning the QR code.

**Flowers** given by Sandra Swan, to honor her son Kevin's 20<sup>th</sup> year at Parkway! Please consider honoring, remembering or celebrating someone by providing flowers for worship. Sign up 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

09/15 Sally Boughman

09/15 Barb Harris

09/16 Alex Zoller

09/19 Suzie Schulenburg

09/19 Killian Lawson

09/21 Pat Klein

09/21 David Comens

09/21 Lydia Roesler

## Anniversaries

09/18 Dan & Kim Weas

09/18 Pete & Karla Shelton

09/20 Louis & Melissa Pounds

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

Sunday, September 15, 2024 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

**Prelude** *Blessed Assurance* – by James Mansfield, based on the tune “Assurance” by Phoebe P. Knapp (1873), ©2018 by Lorenz Publishing Co.

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

**Meditation** Peace. It does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble or hard work. It means to be in the midst of those things and still be calm in your heart. ~Unknown

## 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 musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics placed below the notes. The lyrics are: "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." The score consists of seven staves of music.

**Scripture** Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 | New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be

Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

**\*Call to Worship** based on words by Beth Merrill Neel

One:	Friends, we know what God desires of us...
<b>Many:</b>	<b>That we do justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with God and one another.</b>
One:	We gather this morning to remind each other about that...
<b>Many:</b>	<b>To remember that now is always the right time to do these things.</b>
One:	So, with thanks in our hearts, let us worship.
<b>Many:</b>	<b>With love on our lips, let us worship.</b>
One:	With peace in our hearts, let us worship.
<b>Many:</b>	<b>With the model of Jesus in story and in song, let us worship.</b>
One:	With the inspiration, reassurance and creativity of the Holy Spirit, let us worship.
<b>All:</b>	<b>Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.</b>

**\*Song** Gather Us In | #2236 Blue Songbook



1. Here in this place new light is stream-ing,  
2. We are the young — our lives are a mys - t'ry,  
3. Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter,  
4. Not in the dark of build - ings con - fin - ing,



now is the dark - ness van - ished a - way,  
we are the old — who yearn for your face,  
here we will take the bread of new birth,  
not in some heav - en, light - years a - way, but



see in this space our fears and our dream-ings,  
we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,  
here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,  
here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day. \_\_\_\_  
called to be light to the whole hu-man race. \_\_\_\_  
call us a - new to be salt for the earth. \_\_\_\_  
now is the King-dom, now is the day. \_\_\_\_



Gath - er us in — the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in — the  
Gath - er us in — the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in — the  
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the  
Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,  
proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so low - ly,  
bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion  
make us your own; gath - er us in — all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name. \_\_\_\_  
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song. \_\_\_\_  
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true. \_\_\_\_  
fire of love in our flesh and our bone. \_\_\_\_



## **\*Opening Prayer** *New Zealand Prayer Book*

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of 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* | #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 Loves the Little Children*

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

## **Gospel Lesson** Luke 5:1-11 | NRSV

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “**Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.**” Simon answered, “Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.” When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So, they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, “Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!”

For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, “**Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.**”

When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

### **New Testament Lesson** Acts 2:1-18 | NRSV

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.” All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

*‘In the last days it will be, God declares,  
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,  
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
and your young men shall see visions,  
and your old men shall dream dreams.  
Even upon my slaves, both men and women,  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;  
and they shall prophesy.’*

### **Moment of Silent Reflection**

### **Sermon**



# A Time of Prayer *You Are Mine* | #2218 *Blue Songbook*



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. \_\_\_\_\_ Do not be a - fraid, I am  
 live! \_\_\_\_\_



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. \_\_\_\_\_

## 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 *The Wond'rous Heart* – unattributed

### \*Response *We Plow the Fields and Scatter* #560, v1 and 3



1. We plow the fields and scat - ter The good seed on the land,
2. You on - ly are the Mak - er Of all things near and far;
3. We thank You, then, Cre - a - tor, For all things bright and good,



But it is fed and wa - tered By God's al - might - y hand;  
You paint the way-side flow - er, You light the eve - ning star;  
The seed-time and the har - vest, Our life, our health, our food;



God sends the snow in win - ter, The warmth to swell the grain,  
The winds and waves o - bey You, By You the birds are fed;  
Ac - cept the gifts we of - fer, For all Your love im - parts,



The breez-es and the sun - shine, And soft, re - fresh-ing rain.  
Much more to us, Your chil - dren, You give our dai - ly bread.  
And what You most would wel - come, Our hum - ble, thank-ful hearts.

**\*Prayer of Dedication** Laurel Amabile

Holy One, what a blessing it is to give and receive, to share and support this church where love, justice and equality inspire our acts of service and compassion in the world. We dedicate these gifts to all that we stand for as a community of faith. Amen.

**\*Song of Parting** *Song of Hope* | #432 Red Hymnal



May the God of hope go with us ev - ery day, Fill-ing all our



lives with love and joy and peace. May the God of jus - tice speed us



on our way, Bring-ing light and hope to ev - ery land and race.



Pray-ing, let us work for peace, Sing-ing, share our joy with all,



Work-ing for a world that's new, Faith-ful when we hear Christ's call.

**Verse 2** (written by Evelyn Burette):

**Keep a prayer within your heart throughout the day**

**Hope is always there for those who trust the Lord**

**Give your time and comfort in a simple way**

**Call for justice, hope will surely be restored.**

**Giving, use our gifts with love,**

**Helping, for the ones in need,**

**Striving, for equality**

**Justice, when the need demands.**

**\*Benediction**

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

**\*Music for Going Forth** *Another Joyful Ode* – for piano, anon.

## LAST 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).

## THIS 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).

## THE POINT

God cares for us as communities, families, and individuals.

## BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

Origin stories are stories that explain the beginning of something. Genesis as a whole is a series of origin stories. It starts with the beginning of the universe and then moves to the origin of the people of Israel. God's promise to make of Abram a "great nation" is considered to be the origin of the Israelites with Abram and Sarai (Abraham and Sarah) as their First Parents. In Scripture, these stories often comment on how God is interacting with the world and provide the Israelite people with a clear cultural and historical identity.

## PRACTICE: Fellowship

God's call to Abram is a call for Abram to walk deeper in faith and trust with God, increasing his fellowship with God. This week, take a walk and consider your own relationship with God. Invite family members to join you on this walk. You could even make it a family walk at nighttime under the stars.

## STORY SUMMARY

God calls a man named Abram (later Abraham) and his wife Sarai (later Sarah) to take a very special place in God's redemptive plans for all people. God promises to bless Abram and Sarai and give them descendants who will be blessings to others. This promise makes Abram bold enough to confess his doubts to God. He reminds God that he does not yet have any descendants. God points to the night sky and makes him an astonishing promise: that his offspring will be as numerous as the stars in the heavens. It is an amazing promise, one that would no doubt be difficult to believe, but Abram does. He trusts God and in God's ability to carry out that promise. God, in turn, counts

## NEXT WEEK

Despite many difficulties, God keeps Abram's great grandson Joseph safe and keeps the promise God made to Abram, too. (Genesis 37:3-8, 17b-22, 26-34; 50:15-20).

## 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 15:1-6

God makes an outrageous promise to Abram. Have you ever been promised something that you did not believe could happen? Did it? How did that make you feel?

### MONDAY: Genesis 17:1-8

God repeats the promise to Abram and gives him a new name. Why do you think God changed Abram's name to Abraham?

### TUESDAY: Genesis 18:1-15

Three guests visit Abraham and Sarah in their old age and promise them that Sarah will have a son. Why do you think Sarah laughed when she heard their news?

### WEDNESDAY: Genesis 21:1-7

Sarah bears a son named Isaac. How do you think Sarah's laughter changes from yesterday's story to this one?

### THURSDAY: Genesis 22:1-14

God asks Abraham to sacrifice his son. Why do you think God asks Abraham to do something hard and unthinkable?

### FRIDAY: Genesis 27:1-17, 30-38

Jacob steals his brother Esau's blessing. Isaac had only one blessing to give. How are God's blessings different?

### SATURDAY: Genesis 35:9-15

God appears to Jacob, changes his name, and gives him a blessing. Why do you think God changes Jacob's name? What is included in the blessing God gives Jacob?

# 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.

## Help Needed

- Jesus Has Left the Building, pg. 18

## Tuesday Evening Dialogue

September 24 | 6-8pm | Heritage Room

Please join us for our last session on the book *The Secret Life of Sunflowers* by Marta Molnar on September 14. 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 Chapter 24 to the end of the book for this evening. We will also be choosing our next book.

Potluck at 6pm followed by book discussion at 7pm that evening.

Newcomers are always welcome! 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.

Thursday, September 19th 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 27th 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!

Saturday, November 9th 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 8th 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/>

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 18 | 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).

## **Fall Friendship Dinners Signup** Please sign up by TODAY

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](mailto: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 17th for TAD's next book for continued discussion of the book 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. On September 17th we'll discuss the middle third of the book, up to the chapter called The Great Within.

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. Join in at 1:45 pm for fellowship, or from 2 pm - 3 pm for discussion. 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.

## **Faith and Democracy: Confronting White Christian Nationalism**

Thursday, September 19 | 5:00-7:30pm | Virtual Seminar  
What does a Christianity look like that is not deeply tied to racial injustice and White Christian nationalism, forces captured in the images of the January 6, 2021, insurrection? With a national election just around the corner, how might Christians live into a richer narrative that underscores the nonviolent legacy of Jesus? Join us for an intimate conversation with three renowned thought leaders on the current state of Christianity in the US. Our guests, Dr. Obery Hendricks, Dr. Gary Dorrien, and Dr. Grace Ji-Sun Kim, are internationally known for their insights on the Christian faith and the role that it can play for those committed to democracy, peace, and social justice.

Sponsored by the Christian Century and FaithandReason.org, this conversation will explore the challenges that the growing presence of White Christian nationalism poses to congregations and people of faith and conscience.

Attending the webinar will give you tools to understand the most pressing moral issue in America today. Register free by scanning the QR code to secure your spot and connect with our scholars and each other in this intimate conversation.



## **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

## **Electronics/Metal Recycling Event**

Saturday, Sept. 21 | 8-11am | Schroeder Park  
Open to all St. Louis County residents. More information can be found online at manchestermo.gov/ecycling or by calling Midwest Recycling Center at 636-223-0150.

## **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)

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

**“Genealogy 101: Have you ever wanted to be a historical detective? Or learn how to begin researching your family’s history?” Carol French-Cobb**

September 22 | Heritage Room | 11:15am.

Are you curious about how to learn more about Genealogy? Carol Cobb, a long-time researcher of her and Harold’s family’s history for many years, will show how Ancestry.com and other research platforms work and other learning avenues about your family.

She has always wished she had spoken more to her grandparents about their families. In researching, she has found out secrets that were either hidden or never discussed. With the new Clark Library on Lindbergh, their Genealogy Department has been expanded. Many platforms for research have extensive materials that are shared on the website. Carol will show you the possibilities of research, possible costs, and opportunities to see actual photographs and headstones of ancestors.

Census records are released every decade and provide amazing insights into the past. The 1940 census was just released in 2020. She will share some of the interesting stories she has shared with her family (Kieffer-French) and Harold’s (Crawford/ Cobb), as well as her extensive collection of memorabilia.

She will share a special rum cake passed down through the Kieffer family and a story about her mother-in-law, Jewell Cobb, a devoted Baptist, and her reaction to the cake.

For questions, kindly contact Richard Scherrer, whose email may be found in the church directory.

## **Coffee and Conversation at Panera**

Wednesday, September 25 | 2pm | Panera on Manchester Road in Des Peres

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

Future dates for Coffee and Conversation:

Monday, October 28 at 10am; Friday, November 22 at 2pm; Wednesday, December 11 at 10am; Tuesday, January 14 at 2pm

No need to RSVP - just show up!

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

## **St. Paul Bobby Jo Valentine Concert**

Wednesday, Sept. 25 | 7:00pm | 3510 Giles Ave., Saint Louis, MO

You are warmly invited to attend a concert featuring Bobby Jo Valentine at St. Paul UCC. He was received very well here at PUCC in October 2023, and if you would like to hear more of him, this concert is for you. Heart-opening, award-winning folk/pop music, Bobby Jo is a musical experience you won't want to miss. Tickets are \$20 suggested donation. For more information, contact Lorin Cope [buckeyeohio@hotmail.com](mailto:buckeyeohio@hotmail.com).

## **Prayer Corner: an opportunity to pray with someone**

Friday, September 27 | 6:30-8:30am | 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 upcoming opportunities: Wednesday, October 16 from 8-10am; Tuesday, November 19 from 4-6pm; Monday, December 9 from 1-3pm; Monday, January 27 from 6-8pm

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

## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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)

## **Young Adult LifeGroup – October 1**

First Tuesday of Month | 6-7pm | 14123 Clayton Rd, Town and Country, MO  
Are you a young adult looking for spiritual community and fellowship? Well, Parkway UCC's got you covered! This LifeGroup helps make the bigger church seem a little bit smaller and a lot more intimate. It'll have an element of fellowship and food and then we'll dive into God's word together. These groups are centered around a progressive theology that seeks to be inclusive of all. We'll be meeting at St. Louis Bread Co. in Town & Country this time! For more information or to sign up to be a host, please reach out to Gabriel R. at [gabriel@parkwayucc.org](mailto:gabriel@parkwayucc.org).

## **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 ; <http://www.pilgrimucc-stl.org>;  
Pastor Kevin Anthony

## **Adventurers Fall Fun Apples, Pumpkins and Loose Ends**

Friday, October 4 | 10am-2pm | 2719 Eckert Orchard Ln, Millstadt, IL 62260

We will be traveling to Eckerts (Millstadt) on Friday, October 4.

Meet at church at 9:30am to carpool to the orchard -- about a 30-minute drive. Apples and pumpkins will be available for the picking. We will take a tractor ride out to the field. There is entertainment and lots of fall fun -- \$12 admission price in advance; \$15 at the gate. (Rain date TBA)

Lunch will be enjoyed at the locally owned Loose Ends Bar and Grille located in the "Farmers Inn" building on state route 158 between Millstadt and Columbia.

Please RSVP by Sunday, **September 29** to [kevin@pakwayucc.org](mailto:kevin@pakwayucc.org)

For more information about Eckert's Millstadt:

<https://eckerts.com/location/millstadt-farm/>

## **Free Document Shredding Event**

Saturday, Oct. 5 | 8-11am | Schroeder Park

Residents must bring and present a recent utility bill or their copy of The Manchester Message newsletter as proof of residency which will allow participation. Participants are requested to bring two non-perishable food items or make a monetary contribution to be donated to Circle of Concern to assist families in need in the West County area. Gather and box or paper bag personal documents you want to shred; no business documents accepted. Bring a total of up to 5 banker's boxes and/or paper bags of documents to the event. No plastic covers, binder clips, binder notebooks, or spiral notebooks. Please recycle all your non-confidential documents and other papers weekly in your curbside recycling cart. Volunteers and City staff will direct traffic, collect food donations or cash, and assist with off-loading boxes and bags from vehicles. Participants are asked to remain in their vehicles. All documents are shredded onsite. Shredded materials will be recycled into useful paper products.

For more info, contact Polly Rutherford [pollyrutherford@gmail.com](mailto:pollyrutherford@gmail.com)

## **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 6:00pm and the games will start at 6:30pm.



Registration information is available at [gatewayona.org](http://gatewayona.org) or their Facebook page.

You are invited to create and donate a gift basket of items to be placed in small rainbow bags purchased from Ikea. The bags will be 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 and spirited event.

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 United 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 can bring them to Pilgrim Congregational Church on Union Avenue. If it is easier, Lorin Cope will happily come to our church and pick up the items.

Any questions? Please contact Lorin Cope at St. Paul United Church of Christ at [buckeyeohio@hotmail.com](mailto:buckeyeohio@hotmail.com).

### **Dana Delibovi Book Signings**

You are welcome to save the dates for two local events for the launch of PUCer Dana Delibova's book, *Sweet Hunter: The Complete Poems of St. Teresa of Ávila*:

**Sunday, October 13, 2024.** Kirkwood Public Library, 140 E Jefferson Ave, Kirkwood, MO 63122, 2:00–3:00 PM, Dana in conversation with Editor Andrew Doty: "Taking Your Book From Thought to Bought"

**Saturday October 19, 2024.** Main Street Books, 307 S. Main Street, St. Charles, MO 63301-3434, 1:00–3:00 PM, Dana signing books and handing out her adorable, high-gloss, must-have mini bookmarks (photo attached).

Please join her—she would love to see you there. For more info, contact [danadelibovi@gmail.com](mailto:danadelibovi@gmail.com).

### **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](mailto:gabriel@parkwayucc.org).

# Prayer List

Wednesday, September 11, 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

**Marilyn McDougall** - healing from a fall; heading to a rehab facility.  
**Evelyn Buretta** - preparing for knee surgery on September 12.  
**Bill and Pat Owens** - cancer surgery set for September 18.  
**Peter and Karla Shelton** - mourning and remembering Nic, the best man at their wedding after his sudden death.  
**Grief, healing, hope after deadly school shooting in Georgia.**  
**The continuing war in Ukraine and Russia.**  
**War and unrest 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, PUCCers 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!

# UCC Mission Moment

## Who Are You, Jesus?

### **Mark 8:27-38**

“Who do people say I am?”

Jesus is certainly brave in asking this question. Think about it. Would you really want to hear how someone perceived you? We all have an image we think we are putting out to the universe that is often perceived differently by others.

But Jesus, who is preparing his followers for his impending death — wants to see if the ragtag bunch is understanding the cost that comes with picking up the cross.

Of course, Peter, the one who leaps before looking, jumps right in with the bold proclamation, “You are the Messiah.”

Good job, Peter. Even though you still don’t quite understand what you just said. That will come — in time.

Your turn now. Who do you say Jesus is?

Before you give the Sunday school answer you were taught years ago, stop. Really give it some thought. Who would you say Jesus is for you right now? Your answer might just reveal where you are on your faith journey.

A pastor once asked a group of second graders the “Who is Jesus?” question. Their answers were of course adorable.

Jesus is my teddy bear. Jesus is my cookie monster. Jesus is my best pal. Jesus is my boo-boo healer.

A few years later, the pastor asked that same group of children, now teens preparing for confirmation, the same question. Who do you say Jesus is? This time, the answers were not so adorable. Rather, they were raw and revealing.

Jesus is my safe place. Jesus is my sponsor. Jesus is my secret keeper. Jesus is the parent I wished I had.

The reality is that there will be many different Jesus’ who walk alongside us, being for us the unwavering love and hope needed as we change, grow and move on to new stages in life either willingly or unwillingly. And that is the beauty of our Lord’s question. It reminds us that through it all, he is always exactly what we need.

Yes, Jesus is our Messiah. He is our Lord and Savior. He is also our Safe Place, our Secret Keeper, our Heartbreak Healer ...

Once again, it’s your turn now. Spend some time in prayer, pondering Jesus’ question that he asks of you: “Who do you say I am?”

Jesus, you are my \_\_\_\_\_, and I thank you for your unwavering love and care in each stage of my life. Amen.