

*You have kept
count of my
tossings;
put my tears
in your bottle.*

tears



PARKWAY
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



www.parkwayucc.org

September 22, 2024

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Limitless Love | Courageous Action | Spirited Inquiry

Purpose Statement

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

Congregational Statement

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

PARKWAY UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

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 Readers Kris McKenzie.

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

Flowers given by Ellie Svenson in celebration of Kim & Dan Weas' anniversary last week. 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

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Mental Health Support

988 (new nationwide 3-digit number similar to 911... call or text)
24/7 Crisis Hotline 800-273-8255 (TALK) | 800-SUICIDE: 800-784-2433
24/7 Missouri Department of Mental Health 800-811-4760
Text 741741 and someone will text right back...www.crisistextline.org
Behavioral Health Network of Greater St Louis 314-449-6713
The numbers below are called Warmlines (not Hotlines).
They are peer run by people with lived experience.
Not all of them are 24/7/365
Teen Warm Line: 1 800-248-8336
Black Warm Line: 1-800-604-5841 (They are divested from the police)
Trans Warm Line: 1-877-565-8860
Project Return Warm Line: 1-800-448-9777 (run away)
Learn more about warm lines: <https://warmline.org/warmdir.html>

Birthdays

09/22 Leslie Tupper	09/27 Lilly Bowman
09/23 Thad Stappenbeck	09/28 Kim Weas
09/23 Shirley Mattingly	
09/24 Henry Hood	
09/25 Dan Weas	
09/25 Mike Mason	
09/26 Sue Stolze	

18th Sunday *after* Pentecost

Sunday, September 22, 2024 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Worship service this Sunday is based on the UCC Book of Worship

Welcome Back to Guest Music Leader Merry Keller!

Merry Keller brings a professional choral background and extensive performing experience to her work as Artistic Director at Allegro: A Saint Louis Choral Community (they practice weekly at PUCC). With an undergraduate degree in vocal/choral music, and advanced studies in choral conducting and voice, Merry has been involved in performing, directing and teaching music for over thirty years – including a fruitful time as choir director here at PUCC!

Merry was Artistic Director of CHARIS: St. Louis Women's Chorus, the Gateway Men's Chorus and Saint Louis County Community Chorus. She has served as Director of Music at several UCC churches in Missouri and Illinois. She has taught music privately and in the public school systems of Pennsylvania and Missouri, and maintains a private teaching studio for voice and piano in St. Louis.

Merry premiered her solo cabaret show at The Sheldon Concert Hall, Love In Four Seasons, in October, 2009. She has performed at cabaret venues in the past several years including The Chapel, The Kranzberg, and The Sheldon Ballroom all in St. Louis, and Don't Tell Mama in New York City. Merry Keller has sung as soloist and performed with Random Access – a St. Louis a cappella group, Union Avenue Opera, the St. Louis Chamber Chorus and the St. Louis Women's Chorale. She has been a solo performer in the Friends of Music Concert Series, and in benefit concerts throughout the area.

Prelude

Welcome Let us know you are here!

Meditation Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good. ~Genesis 50:20

***Call to Worship**

One: Morning has broken. Let us give thanks for the gift of life and for the presence of the Holy One among us. Let us worship God together.

Many: **Thanks be to God!**

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

***Hymn of Adoration** *Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather* | #465 Red Hymnal



1. Here, O Lord, Your ser - vants gath - er, Hand we link with hand;
2. Man - y are the tongues we speak, Scat - tered are the lands,
3. Na - ture's se - crets o - pen wide, Chang - es nev - er cease;
4. Grant, O God, an age re - newed, Filled with death - less love;



Look - ing toward our Sav - ior's cross, Joined in love we stand.
Yet our hearts are one in God, One in love's de - mands.
Where, O where, can wea - ry souls Find the source of peace?
Help us as we work and pray, Send us from a - bove



As we seek the realm of God, We u - nite to pray:
E'en in dark - ness hope ap - pears, Call - ing age and youth:
Un - to all those sore dis - tressed, Torn by end - less strife:
Truth and cour - age, faith and power Need - ed in our strife:



Je - sus, Sav - ior, guide our steps, For You are the Way.
Je - sus, teach - er, dwell with us, For You are the Truth.
Je - sus, heal - er, bring Your balm, For You are the Life.
Je - sus, Sav - ior, be our way, Be our truth, our life.

Prayer of Confession

One: Let us confess our errors before God and one another.

All: **Almighty and merciful God, you created and are creating still. In your presence our limits lie stark before us. We confess our unclean lips, our cold hearts, our turning away from neighbors, our broken promises, and our unrepentant hours. Forgive us, O Holy One.**

We confess that we have squandered the gifts you have given. We have neglected the land. We have grasped for goods. We have used each other. We have loved power more than people. Forgive us, O Holy One.

Cleanse us. Come into our hearts, and make us new again. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Silence

Assurance of Pardon In Jesus Christ, God knows and receives us as we are. Listen, give thanks, and live.

Passing the Peace of Christ

“May the peace of Christ be with you.”

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

Psalm Reading Psalm 56 | New Revised Standard Version

Be gracious to me, O God, for people trample on me;
all day long foes oppress me;
my enemies trample on me all day long,
for many fight against me.

O Most High, when I am afraid,
I put my trust in you.

In God, whose word I praise,
in God I trust; I am not afraid;
what can flesh do to me?

**All day long they seek to injure my cause;
all their thoughts are against me for evil.**

**They stir up strife, they lurk,
they watch my steps.**

**As they hoped to have my life,
so repay them for their crime;
in wrath cast down the peoples, O God!**

You have kept count of my tossings;
put my tears in your bottle.

Are they not in your record?
Then my enemies will retreat
in the day when I call.

This I know, that God is for me.

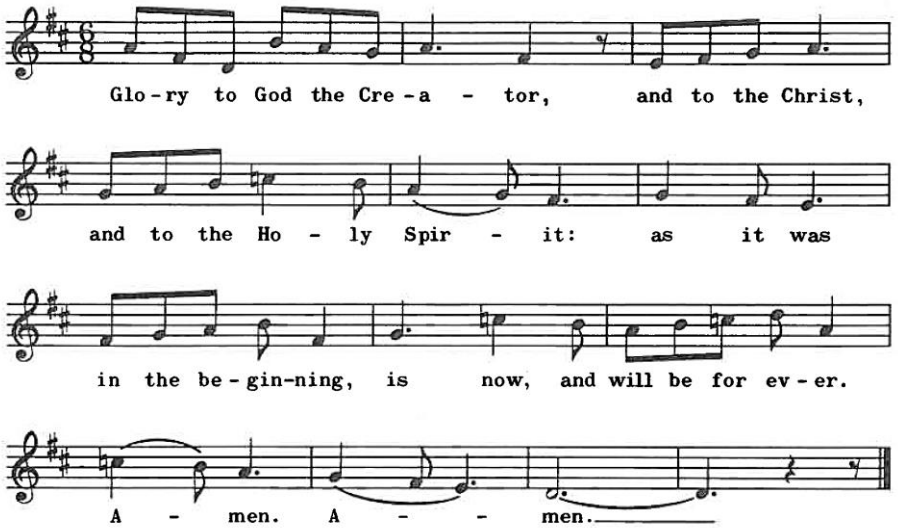
In God, whose word I praise,
in the Lord, whose word I praise,
in God I trust; I am not afraid.

What can a mere mortal do to me?

**My vows to you I must perform, O God;
I will render thank offerings to you.**

**For you have delivered my soul from death,
and my feet from falling,
so that I may walk before God
in the light of life.**

*Gloria



Glo-ry to God the Cre - a - tor, and to the Christ,
and to the Ho - ly Spir - it: as it was
in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for ev - er.
A - men. A - - men.

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 from age 3 to 5th grade can follow one of our teachers down to Room 12 (lower level), and youth from 6th to 12th grade can follow a teacher to Room 15 (also lower level). 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 Gather Space just outside the Sanctuary after worship, as the teachers will bring them back upstairs after class.

Blessing the Children *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying* | #2193 [Blue Songbook](#)



Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren pray - ing, _____
Lord, send your Spir - it in this place; _____
Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren pray - ing, _____ send us
love, send us power, send us grace. _____

Reading of Scripture

Old Testament Lesson *Listen for the Word of God in Genesis* | NRSV

Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him. Once Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. He said to them, “Listen to this dream that I dreamed. There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright; then your sheaves gathered around it, and bowed down to my sheaf.” His brothers said to him, “Are you indeed to reign over us? Are you indeed to have dominion over us?” So they hated him even more because of his dreams and his words.

So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan. They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him. They said to one another, “Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams.” But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, “Let us not take his life.” Reuben said to them, “Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him”—that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father.

Then Judah said to his brothers, “What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.” And his brothers agreed. When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

When Reuben returned to the pit and saw that Joseph was not in the pit, he tore his clothes. He returned to his brothers, and said, “The boy is gone; and I, where can I turn?” Then they took Joseph’s robe, slaughtered a goat, and dipped the robe in the blood. They had the long robe with sleeves taken to their father, and they said, “This we have found; see now whether it is your son’s robe or not.” He recognized it, and said, “It is my son’s robe! A wild animal has devoured him; Joseph is without doubt torn to pieces.” Then Jacob tore his garments, and put sackcloth on his loins, and mourned for his son many days.

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph’s brothers said, “What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?” So they approached Joseph, saying, “Your father gave this instruction before he died, ‘Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.’ Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.” Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, “We are here as your slaves.” But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as [God] is doing

today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Here ends the Old Testament lesson.

Epistle Lesson *Listen for the word of God in Romans* | NRSVUE

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to [God’s] purpose. For those whom [the divine] foreknew [she] also predestined to be conformed to the image of [her] Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom [she] predestined [she] also called, and those whom [she] called [she] also justified, and those whom [she] justified [she] also glorified.

Here ends the Epistle lesson.

Gospel Lesson *Listen to the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Luke-Acts* | NRSV

While [the man who had been healed] clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon’s Portico, utterly astonished. When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, “You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified [her] servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

“And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what [she] had foretold through all the prophets, that [her] Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that [she] may send the Messiah appointed for

you, that is, Jesus, who must remain in heaven until the time of universal restoration that God announced long ago through [her] holy prophets. Moses said, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you from your own people a prophet like me. You must listen to whatever he tells you. And it will be that everyone who does not listen to that prophet will be utterly rooted out of the people.' And all the prophets, as many as have spoken, from Samuel and those after him, also predicted these days. You are the descendants of the prophets and of the covenant that God gave to your ancestors, saying to Abraham, 'And in your descendants all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' When God raised up [her] servant, [she] sent him first to you, to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways."

This is the good news.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

***Affirmation of Faith** UCC Statement of Faith

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles. In Jesus Christ, the man of

Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself. You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory. You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

Hymn *From All That Dwell Below the Skies* | #229 Red Hymnal



1. From all that dwell be - low the skies Let the Cre - a - tor's praise a -
2. In ev - ery land be - gin the song, To ev - ery land the strains be -
3. E - ter - nal are Thy mer - cies, Lord; E - ter - nal truth at - tends Thy



rise: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Let the Re - deem - er's
long: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! In cheer - ful sound all
word: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Thy praise shall sound from



name be sung Through ev - ery land, in ev - ery tongue.
voic - es raise And fill the world with joy - ful praise. Al - le - lu - ia!
shore to shore, Till suns shall rise and set no more.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People

One: Holy Spirit, our Comforter,

Many: Receive our prayers.

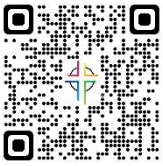
Lord's Prayer *Science & Health* by Mary Baker Eddy

Our Father-Mother God, all harmonious, Adorable One. Thy kingdom is come; Thou art ever-present. Enable us to know—as in heaven, so on earth—God is omnipotent, supreme. Give us grace for to-day; feed the famished affections; and Love is reflected in love; and God leadeth us not into temptation, but delivereth us from sin, disease, and death. For God is infinite, all-power, all Life, Truth, Love, over all, and All. Amen.

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

Announcements of the Church

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.

Offering Interlude

*Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit, the Comforter;
One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.**

*Hymn *How Great Thou Art* | #467 *Red Hymnal*

**O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed;**

**Refrain: Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!**

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!**

**When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;**

Refrain

**When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!**

Refrain

*Commissioning and Benediction

The blessing of the God of Sarah and of Abraham; the blessing of Jesus Christ, born of Mary; the blessing of the Holy Spirit, who broods over us as a mother over her children; be with you all. Amen.

*God's Light Goes Forth

*Music for Going Forth

LAST 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).

THIS 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).

THE POINT

Even when we hurt each other, God can turn our work towards good.

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

What we call the Old Testament, or Hebrew Bible, is the portion of our Bible that was written by and for the people of Israel, before Jesus was born. The Old Testament is a collection of 39 books, often divided into five sections or genres: the Torah (Pentateuch), History, Wisdom Literature, Major Prophets, and Minor Prophets. The Joseph story is part of the first division: the Torah.

PRACTICE: Fellowship

Broken fellowship can be painful in many places, especially in our families and other places where we expect there to be closeness. This week, strive within your family to say "I am sorry" as soon as you know you have wronged or hurt someone. Do not let anger turn into broken relationships.

STORY SUMMARY

Seventeen-year-old Joseph is the favorite of his father Israel (Jacob). But Joseph's brothers grow jealous and angry when Joseph shares a dream predicting his brothers bowing down to him. Joseph's brothers intend to murder him, but one brother convinces them to sell him into slavery instead. God continues to be faithful, preserving Joseph's life in Egypt and raising him up as a leader during a famine. This allows him to help save his family—including his brothers—from starvation. It is because Joseph is in this strategic place that the people of the promise do not die. The brothers intended to harm Joseph. God protects him and brings good out of a terrible situation. When the brothers see Joseph again, they fear his revenge, but instead he offers them forgiveness.

NEXT WEEK

Jacob's descendants stay in Egypt but become slaves. God rescues the Israelites to take them to the land that God promised to Abraham. This story is celebrated in Passover (Exodus 12:1-13; 13:1-8).

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 37:3-8, 17b-22, 26-34; 50:15-21

Joseph's brothers intend to do him harm, but God turns their actions to good. Why were Joseph's brothers so jealous of him, and what did they do about it?

MONDAY: Exodus 1:8-22

The Hebrews grow numerous in Egypt and Pharaoh enslaves them. Pharaoh tries to kill all the infant Hebrew boys. Why did Pharaoh fear the Hebrews?

TUESDAY: Exodus 2:1-10

A Hebrew woman comes up with a plan to save her baby from Pharaoh. What did the Hebrew mother plan to do to save her son? How did God save Moses?

WEDNESDAY: Exodus 3:1-12

God calls Moses to free God's people from slavery. What unusual means does God use to get Moses' attention?

THURSDAY: Exodus 4:1-17

Moses lets God know he is afraid the people will not listen to him. Why is Moses afraid to do what God asks him to do?

FRIDAY: Exodus 7:14-17; 8:5-6, 16-17, 20-21; 9:1-3, 7

Pharaoh will not let God's people go and God sends plagues upon Egypt. What kinds of plagues does God initially send on Egypt?

SATURDAY: Exodus 9:8-9, 22-23; 10:1-2, 22-24; 11:9-10

Pharaoh continues to refuse to let the people go, and God continues to send plagues. Why do you think Pharaoh continues to refuse to free the people?

Announcements

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

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

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

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

The Upper Room Small Group

Wednesday, September 25 | 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.

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; 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.

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 3:30-5:30pm; 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; 314-872-9330

Tower Grove Pride Volunteer Opportunity

GONA gathered for PrideFest 2024 in downtown St. Louis at the end of June. They will also participate in Tower Grove Pride on September 28 and 29, which promises to be an exciting event in Tower Grove Park, attracting large crowds.

In June, many people visited GONA's tent, inquiring about the United Church of Christ and seeking brochures for local congregations. Others accessed the roster of Open and Affirming churches through a QR code on their website. Many attendees were emotionally moved to learn they could share in Holy Communion with a pastor for the first time in years.

If you're interested in volunteering at the Tower Grove Pride tent, please scan the QR code. For more information, contact Lorin Cope at 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. Type in Parkway UCC where you may join the team or make a donation. For more information, contact Susan Moellering susieqslp@sbcglobal.net.

Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue – October 1

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 October 1st for TAD's 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 October 1st we'll discuss the last third of the book, starting with the chapter called *The Great Within* and finishing the book.

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 of this or any of our books. Please stop in at 1:45 pm for fellowship before we start the book discussion. Contact Jackie Eiffert for more information: jeiffert2@gmail.com

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.

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.

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.

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

HOLD THE DATE

The annual Fall Business Meeting of the St. Louis Association will be held on October 5, 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 ; 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@parkwayucc.org

For more information about Eckert's Millstadt:

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

*Consider picking enough apples that you can bring some back to church on Monday at 10am... we have a great plan to spread some love!

The PUCC Adventurers would like for you to join the group on other outings, and we welcome you to suggest and plan an outing for the group. Events may be planned for any day or time. Please contact Carol Cobb (ccjacob@aol.com) or Jackie Eiffert (jeiffert2@gmail.com).

Tentative Plans:

November, 2024: Eugene Field House Museum with Fisher Price Toys Across Generations Exhibit, lunch

December, 2024: Campbell House, lunch

January, 2025: Games and Appetizers at church

February, 2025: The Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, lunch

March, 2025: The International Institute, lunch

April, 2025: Miniature Museum, lunch

May, 2025: First Missouri State Capitol Historic Site in St. Charles, lunch

June, 2025: R & R Miniature Horse Ranch, lunch

July, 2025: St. Louis Trolley tour, lunch

August, 2025 - December, 2025: Do you have an idea for an outing? Jackie will write it up for you if you'd like. Potential outings could include the Route 66 Museum, Faust Park, the Hawken House, the Mudd House, the Museum of Transportation or other ideas of your choice

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

Listening Session with Ray Hartmann

Wednesday, October 9 | 7-8:30pm | Heritage Room

Join RESULTS in the PUCG Heritage room for a Listening Session with Ray Hartmann, Democratic candidate for U.S. Representative for Missouri's 2nd District. RESULTS volunteer advocates will present personal stories about U.S. and global poverty issues, so Mr. Hartmann can hear from engaged Missouri constituents. He'll share his views and policies on those issues with us, so we can be informed voters! A moderated Q&A session will follow. RESULTS is a movement of passionate, committed everyday people using their voices to influence political decisions that will bring an end to poverty. Volunteers learn to effectively advise policy makers, guiding them towards decisions that improve access to education, health, and economic opportunity. RESULTS does not endorse Ray Hartmann nor any candidate for Congress. www.results.org. Scan the QR code to RSVP. For more info, contact Cytinhia Levin changyit@icloud.com.



GONA Annual Drag Queen Bingo

Saturday, October 12 | Doors open 6pm, Games start 6:30pm | Parkway UCC Gateway Open and Affirming Churches invites you to their annual fundraiser for the United Church of Christ Open and Affirming Coalition and Alliance Q of the Christian Church Disciples of Christ.

How You Can Help: Please create and donate a gift basket to be placed in colorful rainbow bags (17" x 10"). These bags will be auctioned off to raise funds for scholarships for the LGBTQIA+ community to attend the General Synod next July.

Drop-off Locations:

- **St. Paul United Church of Christ:** 3510 Giles Avenue, Tower Grove South, 63116 (by October 4)
- **Pilgrim Congregational Church:** Bring items on October 5 during the Fall Business Meeting.
- **Pickup Option:** Lorin Cope can pick up items from your church.

For questions, contact Lorin Cope at buckeyeohio@hotmail.com.

Get involved and support a great cause! Registration information is available at gatewayona.org or their Facebook page.

Dana Delibovi Book Signings

You are welcome to save the dates for two local events for the launch of PUCCEr 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.

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 are interested in helping out or would like to set up a trunk, please reach out to Karen Mariani ksmariani59@gmail.com.

Go AWOL with us - Adventurous Women Out Late

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

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 if finances are hindering your participation in any of these events.

Prayer List

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Celebrations

All the acts of kindness, justice and equity near and far.
Jones-Goldstein Family as they grow - baby girl due in October!
Celebrating 20 years of shared ministry - *Thank you from Kevin.*

Concerns

Bill and Pat Owens - recuperating from cancer surgery September 18.
Evelyn Buretta - healing from recent knee surgery.
Marilyn McDougall - healing and strengthening after a fall.
Shawn Martin - recovering from heart attack (Connors' family friend).
Tumult and grieving after natural disasters.
The continuing war in Ukraine and Russia.
War and unrest in the Mideast - including Israel and Hamas.
The tumultuous and consequential US election season.

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.

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

First in Caring

Mark 9:30-37

It's so easy for us to pick on the disciples for bickering about who is the greatest, especially after Jesus told them for a second time that the Son of God will be handed over, tried and put to death.

Yes, but ... which one of us is the greatest?

We can pick on them or we can take a step back and see how many times in our desire for greatness — measured by the riches, power and prestige the world offers — we miss the life Jesus is calling us to.

When Jesus discovers that this is what his followers were arguing about behind his back, he calls a time out. He then picks up a child for a quick sermon illustration. See this little one? Greatness doesn't come from what you can achieve or gain. Greatness comes from what you do to help the helpless and the vulnerable. Jesus then adds, "anyone who want to be first, must be last."

Our Savior's words go against everything we are taught in life, where first place is coveted and grabbing the prize is the goal.

In 1983, Harvard Divinity School appointed Henri J.M. Nouwen, a Dutch priest, theologian and author, to the position of Professor of Divinity. After only one academic year, Nouwen surprised his Ivy League colleagues by resigning from the prestigious position so that he could serve as chaplain for the L'Arche Daybreak community in Toronto — a place where disabled adults and their caregivers lived together.

But it was at L'Arche that Nouwen met a young man, Adam, who could neither speak nor move without assistance. Nouwen would later reflect that it was his time at L'Arche, and especially Adam, that gave his life purpose.

"The people I live with sometimes have a very hard time believing they are chosen," wrote Nouwen. "They suffer, not so much from their mental handicap, but from the feeling of being not wanted, not desired."

Nouwen stepped away from the world's greatness and by doing so illustrated the power of divine greatness.

"Who among us is the greatest?" It is the one who creates a more loving and welcoming place for the Adams of the world.

Loving God, may today we discover, in serving others, that last place is a glorious position to be in, for it is there your kin-dom work is done.
Amen.