





www.parkwayucc.org

November 17, 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

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

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

John Nourse, *Pastor Emeritus*

Welcome to Parkway

Thank you for joining us this morning! If you are with us virtually, please let us know you are here by commenting in the chat or sending an email.

Welcome Children We invite children to full participation in worship. We also have activity bags for young children to use while they are here.

Bell Rung During Lord's Prayer A tradition begun when farmers working in surrounding fields would stop their work and join in prayer.



Scripture Reader Dawn Jones-Goldstein

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

Flowers given by Naomi Runtz in memory of her husband, Joe Runtz. 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 reach out to contact@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

11/17 Steve Penico	11/21 Carol Wilbois
11/17 Linda Tossing	11/22 Lana Biondo
11/18 John Russell	
11/18 Greg Schmelig	
11/20 Kim Livengood	
11/21 Ella Penico	

Anniversaries

11/21 Jack & Nancy Litzinger
11/21 Gerry & Mike Rogers

26th Sunday *after* Pentecost

Sunday, November 17, 2024 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

This morning's guest pastor is Rev. Debby Harness. She has been in ministry in our United Church of Christ for over 40 years. She began as a youth advisor, then became a Director of Christian Education before going to seminary. Debby retired in 2023 and now offers pulpit supply as needed for churches in St. Louis and Southern Illinois. She serves on the Committee on Ministry: Support in our St Louis Association. Welcome, Debby!

Prelude *Prelude in F* – by A. Guilmant, arr. by Carlo Rossini, ©MCMXLVI by J. Fischer & Bro.

Welcome Let us know you are here!

Meditation Hospitality isn't so much about who the other is or isn't, but who I am and how I want to be. Instead of making a guest list of who is welcome, maybe we should take an inventory and make a list of our own fears, prejudices, judgements, skepticisms, cynicisms, and profiling of others. Those are the locks on your heart's door.

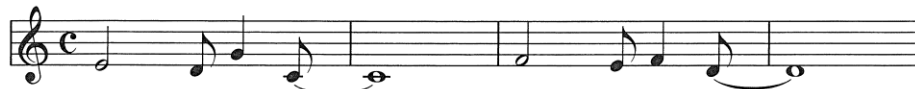
Passing the Peace of Christ

“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 *Here Are Our Hearts*



Here are our hearts._____ Here are our hands._____



Here are our lives._____ Use them as You can._____ Show us those who hurt.



_____ Show us those in need._____ Show us how to serve.



_____ Teach us how to see._____

Scripture II Corinthians 5:7

We walk by faith, not by sight.

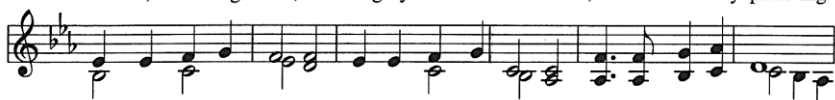
*Call to Worship

One:	God is creating a new world.
Many:	And invites us to be a part of it.
One:	God is promising new and bright futures for those who follow God.
Many:	We rejoice in the goodness of God.
One:	Before we can call, God answers our prayers.
Many:	Thanks be to God, who makes all things good.
One:	Come, let us worship God.

*Opening Song *Bring Many Names* | #2047 *Blue Songbook*



1 Bring man - y names, beau - ti - ful and good, cel - e - brate, in
2 Strong moth - er God, work - ing night and day, plan - ning all the
3 Warm fa - ther God, hug - ging ev - ery child, feel - ing all the
4 Old, ach - ing God, grey with end - less care, calm - ly pierc - ing



par - a - ble and sto - ry, ho - li - ness in glo - ry, liv - ing, lov - ing God.
won - ders of cre - a - tion, set - ting each e - qua - tion, gen - i - us at play:
strains of hu - man liv - ing, car - ing and for - giv - ing till we're rec - on - ciled:
e - vil's new dis - guis - es, glad of good sur - pris - es, wis - er than de - spair:



Hail and Ho - san - na! bring man - y names! great, liv - ing God!
Hail and Ho - san - na, strong moth - er God!
Hail and Ho - san - na, warm fa - ther God!
Hail and Ho - san - na, old, ach - ing God!

- 5 Young, grow - ing God, ea - ger,
on the move,
say - ing no to false - hood and
un - kind - ness,
cry - ing out for jus - tice,
giv - ing all you have:
Hail and Ho - san - na,
young, grow - ing God!
- 6 Great, liv - ing God, nev - er ful - ly known,
joy - ful dark - ness far be - yond our see - ing,
clos - er yet than breath - ing,
ev - er - last - ing home:
Hail and Ho - san - na,
great, liv - ing God!

*Opening Prayer

We confess, O God, that we are ignorant about your ways. We allow wickedness to shape and control us. We do not stand for the justice you have called us to share. We do not care enough about others or give ourselves to the extent you invite us to do. We like to think others should care for us, that life should be easy and free of real work. Help us, Holy One, to see ourselves as followers of Christ. Amen.

*Response *Spirit of the Living God*

**Spirit of the living God, move among us all;
Spirit of the living God, make us one in love;
humble, caring, selfless, sharing—
Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love!**

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 5th grade will then go to Room 12, and youth from 6th to 12th 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.

Children's Anthem *Like a Rock* – Music by Linnea Good

Words by Kerri K. Wehlander, ©1999 Borealis Music

Like a rock, like a rock God is under our feet.
Like the starry night sky, God is over our head
Like the sun on the horizon, God is ever before.
Like the river runs to ocean, our home is in God evermore.

Blessing the Children *Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands*

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

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

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

Scripture Luke 21:5-19

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, 'As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.'

They asked him, ‘Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?’ And he said, ‘Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, “I am he!” and, “The time is near!” Do not go after them.

‘When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.’ Then he said to them, ‘Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

‘But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls.’

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon *What If It Is About YOU?*

Invitation to Prayer *O For A World* | #386 Red Hymnal



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



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

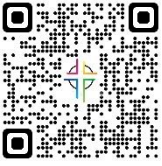
Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

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

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

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

Offertory Anthem *St. Thomas (O Bless the Lord, My Soul)*

arr. by Albert Beck, based on the hymn by Aaron Williams, 1731-1776

*Prayer of Dedication

Take the gifts we offer you, O God.

Take us, just as we are, O God.

Take the hopes we have and the dreams we have and use all these things to make your reign a truth here in our world today. Amen.

*Song of Parting *Guide My Feet* | #354 Red Hymnal



1. Guide my feet
 2. Hold my hand while I run this race,
 3. Stand by me
 4. I'm Your child



Guide my feet
 Hold my hand while I run this race,
 Stand by me
 I'm Your child



Guide my feet
 Hold my hand while I run this race, For I
 Stand by me
 I'm Your child



don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)

*Benediction

*God's Light Goes Forth

***Music for Going Forth** *Rondeau on "Royal Oak"* – by Michael Helman, based on the tune "Royal Oak" from The Dancing Master, 1686, ©2017 Lorenz Publishing Co.

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 **“Understanding the Trans Community through Empathy and Awareness,” by Ben Greene.**

November 17 | Heritage Room | 11:15am.

Ben Greene, a St. Louis resident and an openly transgender man, has dedicated his career to educating people about the transgender community. He has authored *My Child is Trans, Now What? A Joy-Centered Approach to Support*. Using a combination of personal stories and experiences, definitions, and additional resources, this book is an essential guide for anyone looking to help trans youth thrive.

Those in attendance will be eligible for a drawing to win one of Ben's books.

For questions, kindly contact Richard Scherrer at 90fivetpr@gmail.com.

Isaiah 58 - Parkway's Donation to Thanksgiving Dinners

Parkway has chosen to collect 400 POULTRY GRAVY PACKETS for Isaiah 58. As you are out shopping, please pick up some packets (poultry) and place in a box in the entry way where food donations are collected. We need to get them to Isaiah 58 by November 17th. Thank you for your support. Questions? Contact Sally Dodge s.dodge@hotmail.com

Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue – November 19

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

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

Join the TAD group on Zoom as we read and discuss our next book, *Late Migrations: A Natural History of Love and Loss* by Margaret Renkl. A *New York Times* contributing opinion writer, Renkl has written an unusual, captivating portrait of a family—and of the cycles of joy and grief that inscribe human lives within the natural world. This book feels peaceful, calm, and is beautifully illustrated by the author's brother.

In brief essays, Renkl traces a tender and honest portrait of her unforgettable parents and of the bittersweet moments that accompany a child's transition to caregiver. Braided into the overall narrative, she also offers observations on the world surrounding her suburban Nashville home. Ringing with rapture and heartache, these essays convey the dignity of bluebirds and rat snakes, monarch butterflies and native bees. As the two threads haunt and harmonize with each other, Renkl suggests that there is astonishment to be found in common things: in what seems ordinary, in what we all share.

TAD will read and discuss the book in 3 sessions, starting November 19th.

Join in at 1:45pm for fellowship, or 2pm for book discussion.

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

Contact Jackie Eiffert for more information: jeiffert2@gmail.com

Prayer Corner: an opportunity to pray with someone

Tuesday, November 19 | 3:30-5:30pm | 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: 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 **kevin@parkwayucc.org**

Thanksgiving Friendship Dinner at TASOM

Wed, Nov 20 | 6:30-8:30pm | 664 Lemay Ferry Rd, St. Louis, MO 63125

You are invited to the Thanksgiving friendship dinner at TASOM. Featuring all of the traditional dishes with vegetarian options, this is a great opportunity to share a meal with old and new friends. RVSP date has passed, but reach out to contact **info@tasom.org** in case there's still openings.

Coffee and Conversation at Panera

Friday, November 22 | 2pm | Panera on Manchester Road in Des Peres

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

Future dates for Coffee and Conversation:

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

Nursery Room Change Update

On Sunday, November 24, our Nursery will relocate to Room 6 on the education hall on the first floor. This change is in accordance with the renewed lease agreement with Harper School and in an effort to be good stewards of our resources and budget. We will share some of Harper's equipment - including changing table, toys, etc. We are grateful for their partnership. Questions? contact Gabriel R. at **gabriel@parkwayucc.org**

Tuesday Evening Dialogue

November 26 | 6-8pm | Heritage Room

Please join us for our Christmas book selection: *The Redbird Christmas* by Fannie Flagg. With the same incomparable style and warm, inviting voice that have made her beloved by millions of readers far and wide, *New York Times* bestselling author Fannie Flagg has written an enchanting Christmas story of faith and hope for all ages that is sure to become a classic.

We will cover this book in two sessions, first half on Nov. 26 and second half on Dec. 10.

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

Newcomers are always welcome! For questions, please contact Helen Race at **raceh@att.net**.

Support the Third Annual Transgiving STL

Join Us for the Third Annual Transgiving STL!

Transgiving brings together trans individuals, families, and allies for a festive dinner.

When: Wednesday, November 27th, we'll cook and decorate at St. Mark's fellowship hall. Join us for a fun time, whether you're a returning helper or new to the crew!

This year, salads are provided by NEON GREENS, a fantastic seed-to-plate restaurant.

Thanksgiving Day, November 28th: We open at 10 am for cooking, eating, music, games, and more! Our meal begins at 12 pm, and the hall will stay open until 8 pm for seconds and socializing.

Everyone is welcome: trans folks, families, elders, children, and supportive allies—come be part of Transgiving STL!

The Mess in the Messiah | 2024 UCC Advent Devotional

Sundays in December starting Dec 1 | 9:00am | Heritage Room

The Christmas message is messy!

Far from a pristine porcelain creche or an immaculate Hallmark story, the Christmas message of "God with us" is messy. The amniotic sac that bursts open, angels interrupt a good night's sleep, crusty shepherds and foreign stargazers intermingle, a family flees political persecution ... and there is God, in the flesh.

This Advent, sort through the mess to find the message! Join the Stillspeaking Writers' Group and contributors in the daily readings of *The Mess in the Messiah*. Each day includes a scripture reading, reflection and prayer, beginning with the first Sunday of Advent (Dec 1) through the celebration of Epiphany (Jan 6).

The devotional is available for free in the Gathering Space.

We will meet in the Heritage Room on Sundays before worship to go over that Sunday's devotional. For more info, or if you would like a devotional sent to you, contact Gabriel R. at gabriel@parkwayucc.org

Advent Sundays for Children of All Ages!

We are excited to offer Advent opportunities after worship throughout December.

December 1 *Craft and Cards*

December 8 *Soup Making*

December 15 *Christmas Caroling after Barry's Retirement Party*

(This is also the day when our children/teens will participate in worship.)

December 22 *Ornaments and Candy Canes*

December 29 *Cookie Party*

We will setup in the Gathering Space and have things to keep and things to share with others.

Many more details to come!

Proud Art STL Upcoming Events

Proud Art STL provides art workshops and events to create safe spaces for LGBTQIA2S+ middle & high schoolers. Scan QR code to register for events!

Art Workshop Holiday cards with Sean Lowery

Fri, Dec 6 | 6-8pm | Shrewsbury City Center

In this workshop, they will be using print making, watercolors and a variety of other media to make holiday cards.



Spoken Word Poetry Workshop with Chris Holmes

Thurs, Dec 12 | 6-8pm | Richmond Heights

Spoken word poetry blends the art of crafting evocative imagery with powerful delivery to evoke emotions. Participants will analyze professional spoken word pieces, focus on word choice, and practice performance techniques that engage audiences with impactful metaphors, wordplay, and rhythms. This is your chance to transform your passions and ideas into original, dynamic expressions filled with emotion and flair. No prior poetry writing experience is required!

Seriously Safe What to do when there is a dangerous intruder

Sunday, Dec 8 | 11:15am-1:15pm | Heritage Room

Learn about and discuss recommended protocols in the event of a dangerous intruder that are already in use at schools, hospitals, and businesses near us. Cpl Flueger's responsibility is to advise and train organizations in our community for such emergencies. This is a one hour presentation followed by discussion. Contact racerichardg@gmail.com for more info.

Go AWOL with us - Adventurous Women Out Late

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

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/>

*The RSVP date has passed but reach out to Carmen

(cfbum@charter.net) in case there is a way we can secure more tickets.

Please reach out to kevin@parkwayucc.org if finances are hindering your participation in this event.

OUR MUSIC MINISTRY --- SEARCH TEAM and SAVE THE DATE

As Barry Luedloff heads toward retirement at the end of December, the Church Council has assembled a Search Team to find our next Music Director. We commissioned these individuals: Keith Borgmann, Michelle Brueggemann, Elijah Gwyn, Jessica Gwyn, George Lestina, Helen Race, Marsha Peek, ex officio (Personal Relations Committee) and Kevin Cameron, ex-officio (Pastor). Please pray for Barry, our Search Team and the individuals who will consider partnering with us at Parkway UCC. We will hear from the Team soon and learn how we can be a part of this after their organizing meeting. Mark your calendar to join us in giving thanks for Barry at a reception in his honor after worship on Sunday, December 15.

Everlasting Light The Promise of Christmas

Sunday, Dec 15 | 3:00pm | 405 S Fifth Street, St. Charles 63301

Please join St. John UCC in their sanctuary where the St. John UCC Chancel Choir will be joined by an Orchestra for "Everlasting Light The Promise of Christmas" a Christmas Cantata. This free concert includes music, carols, and narration to explore the significance of the light of Christ, based on the books of Isaiah and Luke.

DOWNLOAD OUR NEW PUCC APP TODAY!

Parkway UCC's App is a robust tool that helps us connect and communicate easily. One Church is a gamechanger that will help us to be more vital. Scan the QR code to see the instructions for downloading the app:



Our online member directory is a feature many of you have been waiting for! We take your privacy seriously. The directory is accessible only to PUCC members and staff who use their password to login.

We have also begun using our new front door keypad installed on the brick wall to the right of the doors by our Safety Team. Please select your own unique 4-digit code and send it to gabriel@parkwayucc.org so we can load it into the keypad and troubleshoot as needed. The keypad on the doorhandle is available for a bit longer.

We are happy to help you with anything and everything One Church – including taking your profile photo on Sunday mornings!

Cindy Nouri cynthianouri@gmail.com

Gabriel Requadt gabriel@Parkwayucc.org

Barb Harris barbharris@charter.net

Eco Steward November Report Polly Rutherford

Last month I decided to pick a few upbeat quotes from famous Presidents leading into election season. I was feeling optimistic, and the quotes themselves were of that nature. Now, the election is over, and truth be told, I'm not feeling upbeat and am struggling with what to offer you in the way of optimism from ECO STEWARDS. I think the most important thing to say is that now, more than ever, we need to hold on, fight for what we already have and try to stay strong together. Here are a few new quotes. We just need to put our words into action!

“The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it.”
~Robert Swan

“Anything else you're interested in is not going to happen if you can't breathe the air and drink the water. Don't sit this one out. Do something. You are by accident of fate alive at an absolutely critical moment in the history of our planet.” ~Carl Sagan

“The greatest danger to our future is apathy.” ~Jane Goodall

Prayer List

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Celebrations

Gerre Langton - moving to Friendship Village Chesterfield this week.

Shelter dog Corbin found a forever family (Levin).

Raising the Minimum Wage in Missouri (Levin).

Concerns

Deb Carter and family - as they plan to celebrate/grieve her father David here on Wednesday: Visitation 10am-12pm then Memorial Service.

Carol Clifford and sons Thomas, Patrick and Daniel - as they grieve and give thanks for Scott... no visitation or funeral plans as of yet.

<https://www.ehovita.com/us/obituaries/mo/olivette/scott-stephen-clifford-18868108>

Polly Rutheford - healing after additional back surgery.

Bill & Pat Owens - as he strengthens from recent hospitalization.

Don Luedloff - rebounding from health concerns/issues (Barry's Dad).

Harold Webb - upcoming brain surgery (Burton and Grove).

Rosie - prep for brain surgery as shunts are failing (Jones-Goldstein).

The tumultuous and consequential US election season.

The continuing war in Ukraine and Russia.

War and unrest in the Mideast - incl Israel, Hamas, Lebanon, Iran.

Veterans Day

Continuing

Gloria Lash - pain, other problems related to Parkinson's (Litzinger).

Gladys Sims - healing at home after hospitalization and rehab.

John & Nancy Tallyn - his heart condition; her recurring leukemia, etc

Nylon and Gloria Wilson - in a season of transition (Litzinger).

Sharon and Chuck - a variety of health issues (Gerry Rogers' cousins).

Shara Storm - undergoing treatments for cancer (Stifel).

Shawn Martin - strengthening with PT; back to work 10-16 (Connors).

Carol Combs - end of life journey (Reinhardt).

David Smith - receiving palliative care (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]

Glady Sims - *Friendship Village - 15200 Village View Dr, #2418*; Chesterfield, MO 63017; 636-898-8873 [birthdate: July 4]

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

Not It!

Kaji Douša

The man said [to God], “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.” – Genesis 3:12 (NRSV)

Have you decided whose fault it was yet?

You know, for that thing, that incident that set off a cascading series of bad things. Whose fault was it?

Was it a coworker? A sibling? A faux-friend? A frenemy? A parental unit? An overzealous neighbor?

Or was it “them”? People from that country. People of that religious persuasion. People who read the Bible that way. People who voted for him.

Who wins out in the blame game?

Wandering in the garden in the cool of the evening breeze, God gave an opportunity summarily missed. Adam might have taken his own responsibility for what happened. His failure to do so proved deadly. Not so much because of God’s anger or retribution, I believe. But because this story set into motion what seems the continuous process we all undergo as we look at things that go wrong and play a game of “Not It!”

Passing the hot potato of blame from his own hands to Eve’s and from hers to the serpent who couldn’t catch it, she stood with her hands burning. And women subject to the irresponsible teachings of some hold that burning potato to this day.

Owning up to our own portions of responsibility – without lingering there in self-hatred forever – breaks the vicious cycle of the hot potato blame game. This has to stop.

Maybe it starts with us.

Prayer

God, I am sorry. Forgive me. We were wrong. Forgive us. Thank you for your redemption. Thank you for your love. Heal the scorched hands so they can be ready for your work. Amen.

Scan the QR code to sign up for UCC Daily Devotionals:

