



www.parkwayucc.org November 24, 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

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Kim Livengood, *Church Historian* [historian@parkwayucc.org]

 ${\it Joyce Ruiz, Alzheimer's Assn Faith Outreach Ambassador [JoyceRuiz7@gmail.com]}$

Polly Rutherford, ${\it Environmental Justice/Sustainability Seekers}$ [pollyrutherford@gmail.com] John Nourse, ${\it Pastor Emeritus}$

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 James Milam

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

Flowers given by Nancy & Jack Litzinger in celebration of their 60th Wedding Anniversary.

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: 1800-248-8336

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

11/24 Sean Crawford

11/24 Debbie Reinhardt

11/27 Julie Connors

11/27 Daphne Milam

11/30 Samantha Brown

11/30 Kent Tallyn

Anniversaries

11/24 Alice and Perrin Stifel

11/28 Elise and Jeremy Bowman

11/28 Lisa Davidson and DJ Meyer

Christ the King Sunday

Sunday, November 24, 2024 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Prelude *Triumphal Processional* Carolyn Hamlin ©2018 by Lorenz Pub Co.

Welcome Let us know you are here!

Meditation Neither sugar nor salt tastes particularly good by itself. Each is at its best when used to season other things. Love is the same way. Use it to season people. ~Vera Nazarian

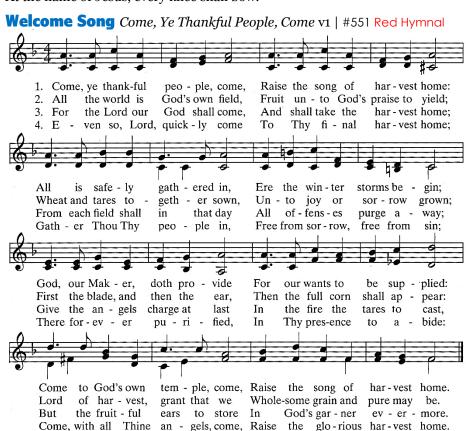
Passing the Peace of Christ

"May the peace of Christ be with you."

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

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Choral Introit *At the Name of Jesus* - Music by Ralph Vaughan Williams arr. Mary Kay Beall / Words Caroline M. Noel (1870), © 1998 Hope Pub Co. At the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow.



Scripture Psalm 100 | Inclusive Language Psalter

Be joyful in God, all you lands; serve God with gladness and come before God's presence with a song. Know this: it is God that is God; It is God who has made us, and we are God's; we are their people and the sheep of their pasture. Enter their gates with thanksgiving; go into their courts with praise; give thanks to God and call upon their Name.

For God is good; God's mercy is everlasting; and God's faithfulness endures from age to age.

*Call to Worship

One:	We are grateful people.
Many:	Grateful for the earth and the ways it feeds and quenches us.
One:	Grateful for our bodies and how they allow us to experience life.
Many:	Grateful for God who continues to create and renew.
One:	Grateful for Jesus as our model, guide, challenger and friend.
Many:	Grateful for the Spirit who helps us remember, persevere and dream big dreams.
One:	Grateful for one another and the stranger too.
Many:	Grateful for the time we have together and for not taking one another for granted.
One:	Grateful for our resilience, wisdom and hope.
All:	Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.

*Song We Gather Together | #559 Red Hymnal



*Opening Prayer A Thanksgiving Prayer A to Z

Thanks for the aardvark the ant and all other creatures whose names begin with "A". For the songs of birds, and honey from bees; for furry cats and swimming crayfish; for dingoes, and dolphins that swim in the sea; for elephants, and eagles who soar above the earth, let us say: we give you thanks, O God.

For frogs which keep us awake at night with their voices; for giraffes whose necks reach to the sky; for hamsters to pet and hogs who give us food; for insects who inhabit our world, let us say: we give you thanks, O God.

For jackrabbits racing across the desert; for kangaroos and katydids; for lions, lemmings, and lizards; for the mongoose, and monkeys who often remind us of ourselves, let the people say: we give you thanks, O God.

For nectarines which nourish us; for the octopus and oyster, gifts of the sea; for people, Lord, because we too are part of your creation, let us say: we give you thanks, O God.

For quartz which runs our watches; for rabbits, rats, and rainstorms; for snakes which slither in the grass; for trees that give us food and shelter; for the power of uranium, may we use it wisely and safely; let the people say: we give you thanks, O God.

For vipers and violets; for whales who swim the ocean and worms tunneling beneath the earth; for xerophytes; for yaks, and for yeast which leavens our bread; for the zebras, whose stripes are one place where black and white live peacefully together, we say: we give you thanks, O God.

Lord, all things in your creation are good. Bless all those parts of the earth which we have not mentioned. Make us faithful stewards of the gifts you have given.

It is in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Children's Time For children under the age of 3, parents are invited to take them to Room 06 (upper level, down the hall to the left) 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.

Blessing the Children Weave

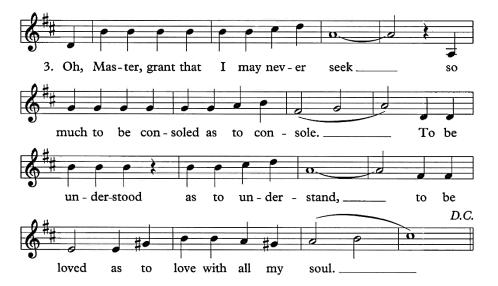
Weave, weave, weave us together Weave us together in unity and love, Weave, weave, weave us together Weave us together, together in love. Scripture Jeremiah 31:31-34 | New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt - a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon

A Time of Prayer Make Me A Channel of Your Peace (v3 on next page)





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.]

Mission Moment Every Child's Hope

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

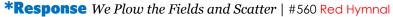
Offertory Anthem *O Worship the King* - arr Stan Pethel, based on *Lyons* by Michael Haydn, words by Robert Grant, © MCMXCIII by Lorenz Pub Co.

O worship the King, all glorious above, And gratefully sing God's wonderful love. Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days, Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

O tell of his might, O sing of his grace, Whose role is the light, whose canopy space! His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form, And dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail. In thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail: Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end, Our maker, defender, Redeemer and friend.

O worship the King!





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



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



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



and the sun - shine, And soft, re - fresh-ing The breez-es 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 Thom Shuman

We who are full can now give bread to others.

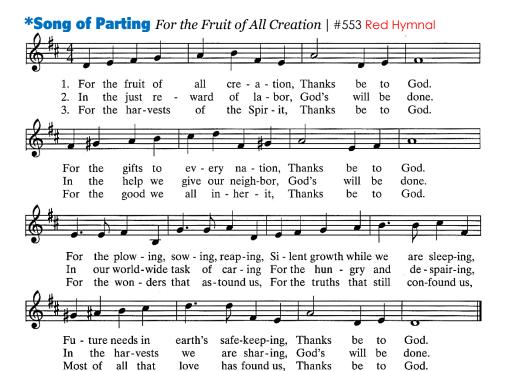
We who are well-off can reach out to raise up the poor.

We who have everything can offer a seat of honor to those who have nothing.

We who are blessed by you, Exalted God, can be blessings to others.

And so we pray that the gifts we have may give hope to the despairing, give strength to the weak, and give justice to the oppressed.

Amen.



*Benediction

*God's Light Goes Forth

*Music for Going Forth Wachet Auf (Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying)
Philipp Nicolai, 1599, arr. by Albert Beck

Announcements

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

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 27, 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 10am for cooking, eating, music, games, and more! Our meal begins at 12pm, and the hall will stay open until 8pm 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**

Speaker Series Occasional opportunities after worship at 11:15am "The History of Bellefontaine Cemetery, Digging a Little Deeper," by Daniel Fuller, Cemetery Chronicler.

December 1 | Heritage Room | 11:15am.

Bellefontaine Cemetery is a nonprofit, non-denominational cemetery and arboretum in St. Louis, Missouri. Founded in 1849 as a rural cemetery, Bellefontaine has over 87,000 graves that include many prominent American pioneers, businesspeople, politicians, and generals who are significant figures in the history of St. Louis and the United States. Its oldest graves are from 1816. Many of the wealthiest families at Bellefontaine have ornate mausoleums which overlook the Mississippi River and have Classical, Romanesque, Gothic, and Egyptian architectural styles. Our speaker Dan Fuller, the cemetery historian, is well equipped to guide us through the fascinating history of this unique St. Louis treasure.

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

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.

Prayer Corner: an opportunity to pray with someone

Monday, December 9 | 1-3pm | 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, 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**

Coffee and Conversation at Panera

Wednesday, December 11 | 10am | Panera on Manchester Road in Des Peres Join us for a beverage and sweet treat. Come connect!

Future dates for Coffee and Conversation:

Tuesday, January 14 at 2pm. No need to RSVP - just show up!

Questions? Contact kevin@parkwayucc.org; 314-872-9330

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 their 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 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 a Sunday morning! Just ask! Cindy Nouri cynthianouri@gmail.com; Barb Harris barbharris@charter.net; Gabriel Requadt gabriel@Parkwayucc.org

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

OUR MUSIC MINISTRY -- SEARCH TEAM and SAVE THE DATE

Barry Luedloff is heading toward retirement at the end of December. Mark your calendar to join us in giving thanks for Barry at a reception in his honor after worship on Sunday, December 15.

Our Church Council has assembled a Search Team to find our next Organist/Pianist and/or Choir Director – this may be one person filling both roles or two individuals. We commissioned the Team during worship in early November: 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.

Here are the job postings. Feel free to share them far and wide! We have begun receiving resumes and will meet to go over them tonight, November 24.

Parkway United Church of Christ (parkwayucc.org), a faithful and progressive, warm and inclusive congregation at Ballas & I-64 seeks a **part-time organist/pianist** who is dynamic, flexible and eclectic. We are also seeking a part-time choir director. If you feel that we could be a good fit for you and your gifts, please send a cover letter and resume to employment@parkwayucc.org. Please indicate that you are applying for the organist/pianist position. This is a great opportunity!

Parkway United Church of Christ (parkwayucc.org), a faithful and progressive, warm and inclusive congregation at Ballas & I-64 seeks a part-time *choir director* who is personable, positive and thinks outside the box. We are also seeking a part-time organist/pianist for Sunday morning worship. If you feel that we could be a good fit for you and your gifts, please send a cover letter and resume to employment@parkwayucc.org. Please indicate that you are applying for the choir director position. This is a great opportunity!

* *

As we prepare for this next chapter in our life together, we are asking for people to step up and step into our music program. We are compiling a list of people who would consider sharing their voice once each year with a solo/duet/trio/quartet, seasonally for Advent/Christmas or Lent/Easter, monthly with our First Sunday Choir or two Sundays each month in our Sanctuary Choir. We are also gathering names of people who play instruments and would be willing to share their gift in worship (remember - it is an act of worship and community not a concert) and people who would consider being in a hand chime choir once or more. Let us know about your favorite hymns and songs. Lastly, we would like to hear your ideas about music at PUCC. Reach out via employment@parkwayucc.org

Questions? Please contact anyone from our Search Team and/or our Chairperson, Jo Grove.

Prayer List Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Celebrations

Gerre Langton - settling in at Friendship Village Chesterfield.

Ben and Marilyn McDougall – healing after his knee surgery. **Deb Carter and family** - as they celebrate/grieve her father David.

https://www.colliersfuneralhome.com/obituary/david-smith

Carol Clifford and sons Thomas, Patrick, Daniel - as they grieve and give thanks for Scott...

https://www.echovita.com/us/obituaries/mo/olivette/scott-stephen-clifford-

Bill & Pat Owens - strengthening after recent hospitalizations.

John Ruiz's oldest brother - ICU in Cape Girardeau.

Harold Webb - upcoming brain surgery 12/09 (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.

Continuina

Polly Rutheford - healing after additional back surgery.

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

Gladys Sims - healing at home after hospitalization and rehab.

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

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 Wilcoxen - *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, 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!

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:



HARVESTING

Tues, Nov 26, 2024 @7pm

The Frontenac Chapel of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints 10445 Clayton Rd. St. Louis, MO 63131

Gather with us for an event that allows our interfaith community to view various expressions of music, dance and readings from different faith traditions that show gratitude.

This event is sponsored by Interfaith Partnership of Greater Saint Louis This event is free and open to the public

