



www.parkwayucc.org

December 08, 2024

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## Limitless Love | Courageous Action | Spirited Inquiry

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### Purpose Statement

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

### Congregational Statement

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

## PARKWAY UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

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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** Cindy Nouri

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

**Flowers** given by Pat and Bill Owens in celebration of their 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](mailto: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](http://www.crisistextline.org)  
Behavioral Health Network of Greater St Louis 314-449-6713  
The numbers below are called Warmlines (not Hotlines).  
They are peer run by people with lived experience.

Not all of them are 24/7/365

Teen Warm Line: 1 800-248-8336

Black Warm Line: 1-800-604-5841 (They are divested from the police)

Trans Warm Line: 1-877-565-8860

Project Return Warm Line: 1-800-448-9777 (run away)

Learn more about warm lines: <https://warmlines.org/warmdir.html>

## Birthdays

12/1 Rocco Stolze

12/3 Pam Owens

12/5 Ryan Ruzicka

12/6 Polly Winkelmann

12/8 Kari Borgmann

12/10 Michelle Singer

12/10 Patrick Tuckwell

12/11 Roger Fagerberg

12/12 Bill Owens

12/13 Amy Yakel

12/13 Quishawn Watkins

12/14 Henry Waite

## Anniversaries

12/9 Pam & Brenda Walker

12/12 Pat & Bill Owens

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent: Peace

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

**Prelude** *Jesus Christ is Waiting* – by James E. Clemens, based on the traditional French tune Noel Nouvelet, © 2007 by Faith & Life Resources, a division of Mennonite Publishing Network

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

## Meditation

Peace is not something you wish for - it's something you make, something you do, something you are, and something you give away. ~John Lennon

## 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** Wait for the Lord – Text ref. Taizé Community, music by Jacques Berthier, © 1984 by Les Presses de Taizé (Admin. GIA Publications)

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!

## Advent Welcome Song *We Are Waiting For You*

The musical score is written in treble clef, key of D major (two sharps), and 3/4 time. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. Chords are indicated above the notes.

Staff 1: We are wait - ing for you, know-ing that you\_

Staff 2: al-ways a - bide, we are wak - ing to your pres-ence

Staff 3: and our hearts are o - pen wide,

Staff 4: o - pen wide. o - pen wide.

## \*Gathering at the Advent Wreath ~ Peace

One: The prophet Malachi calls us to watch for the messenger God will send us, a messenger who burns with a passion for God's coming. "For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness." (Malachi 3:2b-3)

**Many: In a world driven by a passion to maintain the status quo, we choose to live with a passion for God's peace, to listen to those who call us to right living, and to submit ourselves to God's grace, that we might be refined and purified until we reflect God's love throughout the earth.**

One: We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to passionately pursue the work of making peace in our hearts, our families, our communities, and throughout the earth until God's kin-dom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

**All: Let us worship our God together - Creator, Christ and Spirit.**

## Advent Sharing ~ Peace

Barb Harris, Cindy Wessel

## Prayer

**Holy One, Emmanuel, God with us always, help us to live with peace. We want peace to show up in our words, thoughts, prayers and actions. Guide us into places where we can be firm and flexible in your peace. Amen.**

## \*Response *Lead Me, Guide Me* | #2214 [Blue Songbook](#)

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way,  
for if you lead me, I can - not stray.  
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

**Children's Time** For children under the age of 3, parents are invited to take them to Room 06 (upper level) where one of our teachers will meet them at the door. Children and youth will gather in Room 13 (lower level) for the Opening Session. Children from age 3 to 5<sup>th</sup> grade will then go to Room 12, and youth from 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade will go to Room 15. For children in Room 06, 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** *Be Near Me, Lord Jesus*

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
And teach us, dear Jesus, to laugh and to share.**

**Scripture** Luke 1:68-79 | NRSV - New Revised Standard Version

Then Zechariah [John the Baptist's father], was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for God has looked favorably on the people and redeemed them. God has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of servant David, as God spoke through the mouth of the holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

“Thus God has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered this holy covenant, the oath that was sworn to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve God without fear, in holiness and righteousness before God all our days.

“And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way, to give knowledge of salvation to the people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

## Response *Comfort, Comfort You My People* | #3 Red Hymnal



1. Com - fort, com - fort you my peo - ple, Tell of peace, thus says our God;
2. For the her - ald's voice is call - ing In the des - ert far and near,
3. Make you straight what long was crook - ed, Make the rough - er plac - es plain;



Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness Bowed be - neath op - pres - sion's load.  
Bid - ding us to make re - pent - ance Since the king - dom now is here.  
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be - fits God's ho - ly reign.



Speak you to Je - ru - sa - lem Of the peace that waits for them;  
O that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;  
For the glo - ry of the Lord Now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



Tell them that their sins I cov - er, And their war - fare now is o - ver.  
Let the val - leys rise in meet - ing And the hills bow down in greet - ing.  
And all flesh shall see the to - ken That God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

## Moment of Silent Reflection

### Sermon



# A Time of Prayer *Make Me A Channel of Your Peace* | #2171 *Blue Songbook*



1. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. \_\_\_\_\_ Where  
 2. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. \_\_\_\_\_ Where  
 4. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. \_\_\_\_\_ It



there is ha-tred, let me bring your love. \_\_\_\_\_ Where  
 there's de-spair in life, let me bring hope. \_\_\_\_\_ Where  
 is in par-don - ing that we are par - doned, \_\_\_\_\_ in



there is in - ju - ry, your par-don, Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ and  
 there is dark - ness, \_\_\_\_\_ on - ly light, \_\_\_\_\_ and  
 giv - ing of our - selves that we re - ceive, \_\_\_\_\_ and in



where there's doubt, true faith in you. \_\_\_\_\_  
 where there's sad - ness, ev - er joy. \_\_\_\_\_  
 dy - ing that we're born to e-ter-nal life. \_\_\_\_\_



3. Oh, Mas-ter, grant that I may nev - er seek \_\_\_\_\_ so



much to be con - soled as to con - sole. \_\_\_\_\_ To be



un - der-stood as to un - der - stand, \_\_\_\_\_ to be



loved as to love with all my soul. \_\_\_\_\_

*D.C.*



## 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** *Second Mile Advent* Debbie Reinhardt, Kris Impastato  
Circle of Concern | Emmaus Homes | **Metro Trans Umbrella** | Christmas Fund

### Offering Our Gifts to God



If you have an offering today, please place it in the plate on the stand next to the communion table before the end of the closing hymn. There are offering plates in the Gathering Space outside the sanctuary too. Thank you for your generosity.

[www.parkwayucc.org/giving](http://www.parkwayucc.org/giving)

**Offering Anthem** *Come, My Light* – Original text attr. to Dmitri of Rostov (17th c), Music by Anne Krentz Organ, © 2003 by Augsburg Fortress  
*(Please note that this text uses some ancient language or terms that may seem to be at odds with our more progressive understanding of God speaking to us today)*

Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel.  
Jesus, the Light of the world!

Come, my light, and illuminate my darkness.  
Come, my life, and revive me from death.  
Come, my physician, heal my wounds.  
Come, come, Jesus, the light of the world! (verse repeats)

Come, flame of divine love, and burn up the thorns of my sins,  
Kindling my heart with the flame of thy love.

Come. my king, sit upon the throne of my heart.  
Come and reign in my heart.  
For thou alone art my king and my lord.  
Come, come, Jesus, the light of the world!  
Jesus, the light of the world!

Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel.  
Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel.  
Jesus, the light of the world!  
Oh, come.

**\*Response** *They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Peace*

**We will walk with each other, we will walk side by side  
We will work with each other, we will work side by side  
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride  
And they'll know we are Christians by our peace, by our peace  
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our peace.**

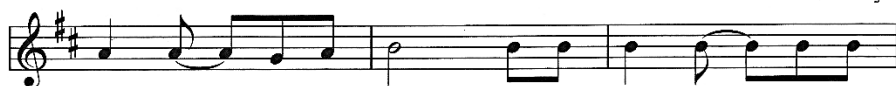
**\*Prayer of Dedication** Joanna Harader

**Holy One, this Advent season we wait in peace. And we give in peace - a peace deeper than our anxiety and fear; a peace growing from our trust in your loving power. Receive these generous offerings, and use them to bring more of your peace to our world. Amen.**

**\*Song of Parting** *Dream God's Dream (verses on next page)*



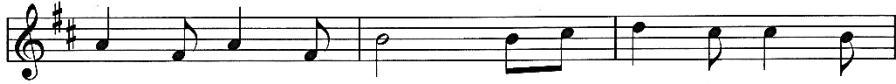
Dream God's dream! Ho-ly



Spir - it help us dream of a world where there is



jus - tice and where ev - 'ry one is free to



build and grow and love, and to sim - ply have e -



Last time to Coda

-nough. The world will change, when we dream God's dream.



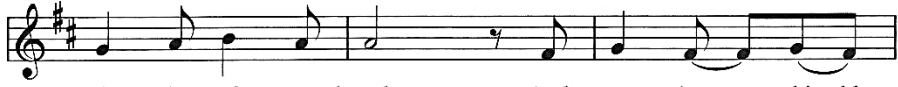
1. I'm dream-ing\_ of a world where the col - or of one's  
 2. I'm dream-ing\_ of the call God is of - fer-ing to  
 3. I'm dream-ing\_ of the way that I want my life to



skin will mean less than\_ what's with - in the per - son's heart.  
 me, how to use my\_ en - er - gy and my best gifts;  
 go. I've got hope and\_ I've got goals I'd like to meet.



A world where wa - ter's clean and where  
 to do the work of Christ to say  
 I'm reach - ing for the stars, but I



air is safe to breathe. And ev - 'ry\_ chi - ld  
 God, please use my life to spread Your\_ heal - ing  
 won't for - get the scars of Christ who\_ loved to



born has e - nough to eat. dream.  
 love and to live Your truth.  
 show that the dream's for all.

**\*Benediction**

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

**\*Music for Going Forth** *Improvisations on 'Puer Nobis Nascitur' from "Musae Sioniae" VI, 1609*

# Announcements

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

Our Communications Team is very active and is exploring all kinds of avenues. Please subscribe to our YouTube Channel today. We need a certain number of subscribers in order to utilize YouTube in the ways we believe will be most effective. <https://www.youtube.com/@ParkwayUCCStL>

There is a subscribe button under the main heading and brief description of our church. Thank you! Questions? Please contact [barbharris@charter.net](mailto:barbharris@charter.net) or [cynthianouri@gmail.com](mailto:cynthianouri@gmail.com)

## **The Mess in the Messiah | 2024 UCC Advent Devotional**

Sundays December 8-January 5 | 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 through the celebration of Epiphany.

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](mailto:gabriel@parkwayucc.org)

### **Advent Sundays for Children of All Ages!**

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

December 8 *Soup Making* We will make a dry soup packet (labeled with ingredients and directions) for you to take home. We encourage you to invite a few neighbors over for soup and games/puzzle/cards/film discussion sometime over the winter months.

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 set up in the Gathering Space and have things to keep and things to share with others.

## **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 Pflueger'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 PUCG 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**

## **Tuesday Evening Dialogue**

December 10 | 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.

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**.

## **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

## The Upper Room Small Group

Every Wednesday | 1-2pm | Gathering Space

Come as you are and take part in our Upper Room Small Group on December 11. We'll be following The Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide once a week on Wednesday afternoons. Pretty casual with some guided questions to help stir the spirit. Copies of the devotional are available for free in the Gathering Space. We would love to have you!

For more info, contact Gabriel [gabriel@parkwayucc.org](mailto:gabriel@parkwayucc.org)

## 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!

### 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!



## Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue—December 17

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 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.

On December 17 we'll discuss pages 142 through the end of the book. 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.

We will be meeting the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month & hope to see you on Zoom. Questions or comments? Please contact Jackie Eiffert [jeiffert2@gmail.com](mailto:jeiffert2@gmail.com)

## **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.

## **Go to the Campbell House with the PUCC Adventurers**

Thursday, December 19 | 10am-1:30pm | 1508 Locust Street, STL 63103

Join the PUCC Adventurers as we head to The Campbell House. The house will be beautifully decorated for Christmas. Please meet at church for carpooling at 9:30am, or meet at the Campbell House by 10am. Admission is \$8 per person, payable at the door. Lunch is at noon at Syberg's, 2211 Market Street, 63103.

Please RSVP by **December 12th** to:

Diane Tallyn at [diane\\_tallyn@hotmail.com](mailto:diane_tallyn@hotmail.com) or

Kent Tallyn at [bsee74-pucc@yahoo.com](mailto:bsee74-pucc@yahoo.com)

Let us know if you're carpooling or meeting at the house. Park on 15th Street for accessible access. An elevator is available for the tour, but the main bedroom requires climbing 16 steps. The Robert G. Campbell House, City Landmark #6, was built in 1851 for J.H. Hall by architect William Fulton. This three-story red brick and stucco house blends Greek Revival and Victorian townhouse styles. After Campbell purchased the lot next door in 1856, he added a carriage house and summer house. The house remained in his family until the 1930s, when it became a museum. It was designated a City Landmark in 1971.

For more info on PUCC Adventurers, contact Jackie Eiffert at [jeiffert2@gmail.com](mailto:jeiffert2@gmail.com)

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:cynthianouri@gmail.com)

Barb Harris [barbharris@charter.net](mailto:barbharris@charter.net)

Gabriel Requadt [gabriel@Parkwayucc.org](mailto:gabriel@Parkwayucc.org)



## Hanukkah or Festival of Lights

Tuesday, December 17 | 7-8:15pm | 12166 Conway Rd, Saint Louis, MO 63141  
Come to Temple Emanuel to celebrate and learn about the beautiful and historic Jewish Festival of Hanukkah. Commonly known today as the Festival of Lights, we hope that you will come to be illuminated and rejoice in their rich diversity.

Sponsored by Interfaith Partnership of Greater Saint Louis and Temple Emanuel. This event is free and open to the public.

Registration is required for this event. Please RSVP to [andrew@testl.org](mailto:andrew@testl.org)

## Christmas Dinner

Wednesday, December 25 | 2-5pm | Fellowship Hall

Come join us for Christmas dinner! All are welcome!

Registration (RSVP) is appreciated but not required.

For more info, reach out to Gerry Rogers [gcr123055@gmail.com](mailto:gcr123055@gmail.com)

## MORE A/V HELP NEEDED

We are looking for one or two people that can help on Sunday mornings with our A/V systems that make church possible to be seen and heard.

Commitments would be for only one or two Sunday mornings a month. The more people we have, the fewer Sundays each person would be needed. We will provide training. Candidates should have a basic understanding of computers but need not be technically savvy.

Those interested, please reach out to Kent Tallyn at:

[bsee74-pucc@yahoo.com](mailto:bsee74-pucc@yahoo.com)

## December 2024 Alzheimer's News

A recent study has shown that a common cholesterol medication could help to slow the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease. The research, which was undertaken by scientists in Sweden, suggests that statin drugs could reduce congestion in the brain that leads to cognitive decline. Over three years, the researchers in Sweden looked at over 11,000 cases of people who were diagnosed with both dementia and heart issues that required them to take statin drugs. They found that the majority of these patients experienced mental decline at a lower rate than those who were not taking a statin, but the authors said another study was needed. Sara Garcia-Ptacek, an associate professor of neuroscience at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, said "The results of the study do not mean we now have evidence that people with dementia should be treated with statins. But on the other hand, we can't see any support for not doing so." Garcia-Ptacek added that a study looking at new data was needed, rather than just relying on the past data her team looked at.

You can learn more by going to [www.alz.org/help-support/resources](http://www.alz.org/help-support/resources) or the Alzheimer's Helpline which is accessible 24/7 via 800-272-3900 and staffed by master's level clinicians to assist with crisis situations, decision making, and disease information. You can find virtual dementia caregiver resources online at [alz.org/covid19help](http://alz.org/covid19help). Tools and support are also available in Spanish. Want to learn more about the Alzheimer news, reach out to Joyce Ruiz [joyceruiz7@gmail.com](mailto:joyceruiz7@gmail.com)

## **A Giving Tree for Advent 2024**

In the Bible story about Noah, a rainbow is a sign of a promise by God — a covenant — between God and all living things on Earth. When Parkway United Church of Christ agreed to be an Open and Affirming church, it promised to love and welcome LGBTQ+ siblings into our church family thereby celebrating the diversity of God’s creation. This Advent, our church has an opportunity to live into that promise.

There is a rainbow Christmas tree in our Gathering Space, and it is filled with paper ornaments. Between now and Dec. 29, 2024, you are invited to take one (or more) blue, pink and white ornaments (the colors found in the Trans Pride flag), each one representing an article of winter clothing for our friends at Metro Trans Umbrella Group (MTUG). The organization needs warm hats, gloves, scarves, coats, socks, and hand warmers in its effort to help unhoused adults this winter. Founded in 2013 by trans folk, the non-profit’s mission is to empower transgender, nonbinary, intersex, and other gender-expansive people so that they not only survive but thrive.

In addition to the rainbow giving tree, you can also donate through PUCC’s Second Mile Advent/Christmas giving. One of MTUG’s current financial needs is to help trans people secure passports and assist with legal name changes.

Please mark online giving or checks “second mile.” Bring your clothing items by Dec. 29, 2024, and place them in the basket marked “MTUG” near the rainbow giving tree. For more information, please reach out to the church’s ONA Team convener Deb Reinhardt - [\*\*deborahreinhardt@att.net\*\*](mailto:deborahreinhardt@att.net)

## **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 (Personnel 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.

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\*\*](mailto:employment@parkwayucc.org)

# Prayer List

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

## Celebrations

**Yakel Family** - December 1 wedding of Lauren Yakel & Ryan Haynes.

## Concerns

**Bill & Pat Owens** - as he is hospitalized... back surgery today.

**Steve & Paige Penico and Family** - as he lives with ALS.

**Harold Webb** - upcoming brain surgery 12/09 (Burton and Grove).

**Mary** - tests (may need stents); caregiver for father in hospice (Tarr).

**Billy** - healing from motorcycle accident (Iris Cameron co-worker).

**Phil and Amy and family** - as his terminal illness progresses.

**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.

**World Aids Day on 12/01** - lives lost, HIV persons, work to be done.

## Continuing

**Ben and Marilyn McDougall** - healing after his knee surgery.

**Gladys Sims** - healing at home after hospitalization and rehab.

**John Ruiz's oldest brother** - healing in Cape Girardeau.

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

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

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

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

**Kari Borgmann** - her mom turned 100 this year; health issues.

**Renee Pellegrino & 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).

**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!

## Home-Centered/Care Facility/Rehab Center

**Lewis Junior Burcham** - *The Glenwood*; 1635 N. Baltimore Ave #25; 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]

**Mildred Hoxie** - *Sunrise at Bluemont Park*, 5900 Wilson Blvd. #253, Arlington, VA 22205; [birthdate: January 15]

**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.**

**PUCF Family** struggling with employment; healthcare costs and limits.

**Our Missouri Mid-South Conference and St Louis Assn UCC**

**Gun violence and other violence across the US and other lands.**

**Conversations about the Death Penalty** in the United States.

**Victims of Natural and Created Disasters** around the world.

**Healing of relationships between the public and the police.**

**Peace and Justice** near and far.

**US Military** around the globe.

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## 2024 UCC Habitat News—And Looking Ahead

UCC work crews joined workers from many other organizations building or rehabbing 30 houses for excited families during 2024! It is so rewarding to see the faces and hear the stories of the families who finally have great housing. Look out for Habitat for Humanity events in 2025. For more info on how to help, contact Tom McKenzie [mckenzie1947@att.net](mailto:mckenzie1947@att.net)



# What will **YOU** give back to God?

Dear Parkway United Church of Christ Members and Friends,  
Greetings!

As we state in our church's purpose statement: Parkway UCC 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.

To support this statement, we are asking our members and friends to pledge their monetary intention for 2025!

This year, we are taking a new approach to our Stewardship Pledge Campaign. We are using One Church, our all-in-one church management software, instead of sending a pledge request by mail.

Therefore, we are inviting you to make your pledge online through One Church by scanning the QR code. Please note, if you need to register and pledge using One Church, there will be several people to help in the Gathering Space on Sundays (For members/friends not yet on One Church, we will have physical pledge cards available at church.).



What has not changed is our continuing support of our church's vitality in mission and ministries. Your pledge allows our budget planning campaign to accurately support our expenses for outreach programs, worship experiences, education for all ages, building care and staff salaries. We are asking for a pledge for the General Fund and/or the Building Fund.

Your active participation makes this possible, and all contributions of whatever size are valued and important. As we are operating on a limited time constraint for this pledge campaign, we encourage you to respond during December if possible. Remember, all contributions are tax-deductible.

Thank you for your continued support of Parkway United Church of Christ's mission.

Blessings,

The Parkway UCC Steward Commission  
Harold Cobb    George Lestina    Kari Borgmann  
Linda Tossing    Ellie Svenson