



Joy



www.parkwayucc.org

December 15, 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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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, Atticus Reed, Greg Schmelig, Thad Gwyn, Betty Scherrer, Kent Tallyn, Henry Waite, Sally Dischinger, and Evelyn Buretta. Consider signing up to read scripture this spring or summer by scanning QR code.

Flowers given by Cindy Wessel in memory of her son, Tyler. 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

12/15 Mike Rogers	12/20 Peggy Mohl
12/16 Jessica Gwyn	12/20 Don Wandless
12/17 Brian Sableman	12/20 Alison Yakel
12/18 Anthony Williams	12/21 Donna Fauss
12/18 Evelyn Tallyn	12/21 Lisa Davidson
12/18 Daniel Jones	12/21 Val Detjen
12/18 Mikey Jones	12/21 Laura Waite
12/20 Cherie Stolze	

3rd Sunday of Advent: Joy

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

Preludes

A Snowy Morning

Composed and offered by Elijah Gwyn, pianist

We Wish You a Merry Christmas

Based on the Traditional English carol - Offered by Joyful Noise! Kinder Bells

Welcome Let us know you are here!

Meditation Babies should enjoy the freedom to vocalize whether it be in church, a public meeting place, during a movie, or after hours when the lights are out. They have not yet learned that joy and laughter have to last a lifetime and must be conserved. ~Erma Bombeck

Passing the Joy of Christ

“May the joy of Christ be with you.”

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

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Advent Welcome Song *We Are Waiting For You*

D A/D Gadd9 D

We are wait - ing for you, know-ing that you_

A/D Gadd9 D A/D Gadd9

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

D A/D Gadd9

and our hearts are o - pen wide,

A7sus D A/D Gadd9 A7sus D

o - pen wide. o - pen wide.

*Gathering at the Advent Wreath ~ Joy

Dawn Jones-Goldstein

One: No matter what troubles overwhelm us today, the prophet Isaiah reminds us that in all of our preparation and passionate pursuit of God's coming kin-dom, we must not forget that God's powerful presence has come and is coming. "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation." (Isaiah 12:3). With joy you will remember that God's saving graces are already present among us.

Many: Faced with the troubles and the suffering of the world, we choose to live in joyful presence to God and one another. We will not turn away from the pain and the hurt in our world, and we will not stop rejoicing in God, whose presence fills us to overflowing - that God's love might flow through us and flood our troubled world with hope, peace, and joy.

One: We light this candle of joy as a sign of our commitment to be present to ourselves, our friends, our families, and our neighbors that in sharing our vulnerable lives we might share in the glorious joy of God's presence together.

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

Advent Sharing ~ Joy

Carol Cobb, Bill Haack
Michelle Brueggemann, Jo Grove

Prayer

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

Carol *Good People All*

Offered by the Parkway Sanctuary Choir & Hand Chimes

Good people all, this Christmas time, consider well and bear in mind,
What our good God for us has done, in sending the beloved Son.
With Mary holy we should pray, to God with love on Christmas Day!
In Bethlehem upon that morn there was a blessed Messiah born.

The night before the happy tide the noble Virgin and her guide
Were long-time seeking up and down to find a lodging in the town.
But hark, how all things come to pass: from every door repelled, alas!
As was foretold, their refuge all was but a humble ox's stall.

Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep;
To whom God's angels did appear, which put the shepherds in great fear.
"Prepare and go," the angels said, "to Bethlehem; be not afraid,
For there you'll find this happy morn,
A princely Babe, sweet Jesus born."

Traditional, Irish

1st Lesson Genesis 3:8-15

Atticus Reed

In the Garden of Eden, God tells Adam that the serpent will be punished.

They heard the sound of the God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the couple hid themselves from the presence of God among the trees of the garden. But God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." Then God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

Carol *God Walked in Eden's Garden Fair*

Offered by the Parkway Sanctuary Choir & Hand Chimes

God walked in Eden's Garden fair, such beauty there none could compare
It soon became a place of shame; there Adam's sin disowned God's name.

A world of peace was swept away when Adam chose to disobey.
Like Adam, here we sometimes fall when we refuse to hear God's call.

The tale of Adam is our own. Like him we see God's love made known;
Yet when we fail and go our way, the Holy One hears when we pray.

original material by Hal H. Hopson, based on Conditor Alme Siderium / Lyrics adapted for Pucc

2nd Lesson Isaiah 9:2,6,7

Greg Schmelig

The prophet Isaiah foretells the birth of Christ.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting One, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and the kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Carol *Advent Verse* — arr. Deborah Governor

Offered by the Parkway Sanctuary Choir

Alleluia, Alleluia!

A virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and call his name Emmanuel.

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Alleluia, Allelu!

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Based on 12th century Latin chant "Veni Emmanuel"

3rd Lesson Isaiah 11:1-3a, 4a, 6-9

Thad Gwyn

Isaiah speaks of the peace that Christ will bring to the world.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Hymn *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* | #16, v.1 & 2 red hymnal



1. The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came, His
2. "For know a bless - ed moth - er you shall be, All
3. Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head, "To
4. Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born In



wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame; "All
gen - er - a - tions praise con - tin - ual - ly, Your
me be as it pleas - es God," she said, "My
Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn, And



hail," said he, "O low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,"
Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told." Most
soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
Chris - tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say:



high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!

4th Lesson Luke 1:26-38

Betty Scherrer

The Angel Gabriel appears to the Virgin Mary.

On the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Hymn *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* | #16 v.3 & 4 red hymnal



1. The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came, His
2. "For know a bless - ed moth - er you shall be, All
3. Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head, "To
4. Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born In



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Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told." Most
soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
Chris - tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say:



high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!

Carol *Only a Baby Came* — by Natalie Sleeth

Offered by the Parkway Sanctuary Choir

They waited for a king with crown of gold, to save the world as was foretold,
A Sov'reign wise, a ruler bold,
But only a baby came.

They waited for a prince to gain the throne, a Savior sent by God alone,
The one with kingdom yet unknown,
But only a baby came.

'Twas but a babe who came that night, the wonder to proclaim;
With brightest star to shed it's light and set the world a-flame!

They waited for a word of truth divine, a heav'nly dove, a sacred sign,
A living branch from Jesse's line,
But only a baby came.

Only a babe to bear the shame. Only a babe with Love his name,
Only a lowly, Holy baby came.

The birth of Jesus is described by Luke.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Carol *The Friendly Beasts*

V.1-5 offered by the Parkway UCC children and youth

Congregation sings the last verse with the children and youth

Jesus our brother, kind and good
Was humbly born in a stable rude,
And the friendly beasts around Him stood,
Jesus our brother, kind and good.

“I,” said the donkey, shaggy and brown,
“I carried His mother up hill and down;
I carried her safely to Bethlehem town.”
“I,” said the donkey, shaggy and brown.

“I,” said the cow all white and red,
“I gave Him my manger for His bed;
I gave Him my hay to pillow His head.”
“I,” said the cow all white and red.

“I,” said the sheep with curly horn,
“I gave Him my wool for His blanket warm;
He wore my coat on Christmas morn.”
“I,” said the sheep with curly horn.

“I,” said the dove from the rafters high,
“I cooed Him to sleep so He would not cry;
We cooed Him to sleep, my mate and I.”
“I,” said the dove from the rafters high.

(Congregation joins singing...)

**Thus every beast by some good spell,
In the stable dark was glad to tell
Of the gift he gave Emmanuel,
The gift he gave Emmanuel.**

Based on the traditional English carol

The shepherds journey to the manger.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Carol *I Saw Three Ships*

Offered by the All-New Children's Choir / Children of the congregation

I saw three ships come sailing in on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day.
I saw three ships come sailing in, on Christmas Day, in the morning.

And what was on those ships all three, on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day?...

The virgin Mary and Christ were there, on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day!...

Then let us all rejoice again, on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day!

Four verses from the traditional English carol, arr. by John Dexter, 1995

Choral Reading *In The Judean Hills*

— music by Joseph M. Martin, narration written by Pamela Martin

Offered by the Parkway Sanctuary Choir, narrator Atticus Reed

The birth of Jesus is replete with contrasts. The Christ Child, sent from the riches of heaven, is born into the household of a poor carpenter. Though He possesses the universe, no one grants Him shelter, and He laid in a manger.

The Bread of Life . . . laid to sleep in a feeding trough.

And although He was long-awaited, His birth would go unnoticed were it not for a chorus of angels rousing shepherds from their slumber. Terrified at first, the shepherds are awe-struck by the sight and sound of the heavenly beings.

Against a backdrop of dazzling light, their unearthly singing is a call to joy, their wings stirring up an infectious rhythm.

Captivated by the song, the shepherds are led in a jubilant rush towards the stable.

Unexpectedly, these tenders of sheep dance into the very presence of God's own Lamb.

Hymn *Angels We Have Heard on High* | #23 red hymnal



1. An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
2. Shep-herds, why this ju - bi-lee? Why your joy-ous strains pro-long?
3. Come to Beth-lè - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun-tains in re - ply Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heaven - ly song?
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glo - - - - -



- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - - - - - o.

7th Lesson Matthew 2:1-11

Sally Dischinger

Three wise men follow the star and are led to Jesus.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Poetry Reading *Follow The Kings*

by St. Teresa of Avila, translated and offered by Dana Delibovi, from her recent book "Sweet Hunter"

Instrumental Interlude *Silent Night (for flute and piano)*

Fran Grüber's traditional Tyrolian carol, arr. by Jason Tonioli
offered by Cassie Rosenberger, flute

Mission Moment *Second Mile Advent*

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

***Offering Response**

**Praise God whose many names abound;
Our Peace, our Rock, Our Holy Ground,
Our Home, our All, Earth's Majesty,
Love, Spirit, Light and Mystery. Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication** Joanna Harader

**Holy One, this Advent season we wait in joy. And we give with joy.
Joy for all you have given us. Joy because of your sacred promises.
Receive these generous offerings, and use them to spread more of
your joy in our world. Amen.**

Carol *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* — arr. Lloyd Larson

Offered by the Parkway Sanctuary Choir & Hand Chimes

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Arrangement based on the 12th Century Latin hymn Veni Emmanuel

John unfolds the mystery of Christ's birth.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, and the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory of God's only son, full of grace and truth.

Carol *I Look From Afar* — Plainchant

Offered by the Parkway Sanctuary Choir & Hand Chime

I look from afar and lo, I see the power of God coming
And a cloud covering the whole earth.

Go ye out to meet him and say,
Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?
High and lo, rich and poor, one with another.

Go ye out to meet him and say,
Hear O thou shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep,
Tell us, art thou he that should come?
Stir up thy strength O Lord, and come to reign over thy people Israel

I look from afar and lo, I see the power of God coming
And a cloud covering the whole earth.

Go ye out to meet him and say,
Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

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.]

Hymn *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* | #31 v.1-3 red hymnal

Intro by Youth Chimes

(feel free to take photos of the children and youth during v1-2)



1. Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King.
2. Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
- *3. Hail the heav-en-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!



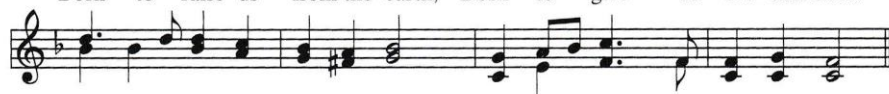
Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec-on-ciled!"
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of the vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Risen with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; Hail the in-car-nate De - i - ty,
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die,



With the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us sec-ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

Benediction

Postlude *Improvisations on Bereden Väg För Herran*

(Prepare the Way, O Zion)

Original melody published 1697

Announcements

Please use the form at 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 or cynthianouri@gmail.com

The Mess in the Messiah | 2024 UCC Advent Devotional

Sunday, December 15 | 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

Advent Sundays for Children of All Ages!

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

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

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.

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 begin this next chapter, we're seeking people to join our music program. We're looking for individuals willing to sing a solo, duet, trio, or quartet seasonally (Advent/Christmas or Lent/Easter), monthly with the First Sunday Choir, or twice a month with the Sanctuary Choir. We're also gathering names of instrumentalists who'd share their talents in worship, and those interested in joining a hand chime choir. Let us know your favorite hymns and songs! Lastly, we would like to hear your ideas about music at PUCC. Reach out via employment@parkwayucc.org

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.

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.

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

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 18**. 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

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.

The RSVP date has passed, but if still interested, contact:
Diane Tallyn at diane_tallyn@hotmail.com or
Kent Tallyn at 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

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

Christmas Eve Worship on Tuesday, December 24

4:30pm Family Friendly Worship—A lively and spirited service with Nativity scriptures, carols and contemporary reflections. We will sing *Silent Night* by candlelight as we prepare to go out into this holy night.

7:30pm Candlelight & Communion—This traditional service includes the Christmas Gospel, choir and carols as we ponder what this love story means for us today. We will share Communion at our open table and sing *Silent Night* by candlelight.

Both services will be in the Sanctuary and on Facebook Live. We need some help with greeters, ushers, readers and leaders at the Advent Wreath. Please consider signing up by scanning the QR code:



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

A Giving Tree for Advent 2024

In the Bible, the rainbow symbolizes God's promise to all living things. When Parkway United Church of Christ became an Open and Affirming church, it pledged to love and welcome LGBTQ+ individuals, celebrating the diversity of God's creation. This Advent, we have a chance to honor that promise.

A rainbow Christmas tree in our Gathering Space is filled with paper ornaments. From now until Dec. 29, 2024, take blue, pink, and white ornaments (colors from the Trans Pride flag), each representing winter clothing for Metro Trans Umbrella Group (MTUG), which supports unhoused adults. MTUG's mission is to empower transgender, nonbinary, intersex, and gender-expansive individuals to thrive.

You can also donate through PUCC's Second Mile Advent/Christmas giving to help MTUG with passport and legal name change costs. Please mark online donations or checks "second mile" and bring clothing items by Dec. 29, 2024, to the basket marked "MTUG" by the rainbow tree.

For more information, please reach out to the church's ONA Team convener Deb Reinhardt - deborahreinhardt@att.net

December Eco Stewards News

Even if the election results represent a setback for the environment, we are still seeing some good signs of progress. The Post-Dispatch on Sunday, December 1 ran a story reporting that the shift toward Electric Vehicles (EVs) is expected to roll on. It reports that a 1974 law limits presidential changes in vehicle requirements. There may be litigation or other pushback. Yet, there is also support for the jobs created by the EV industry. Several auto manufacturers have stated that the move toward sustainable fuel is inevitable. Manufacturers have spent \$160 billion just in the last few years on planning, designing, and building EVs. And there is political support. Many states have battery factories, EV facilities provide jobs, and the \$7,500 tax credit incentivizes purchases of EVs. It's a good thing for our environment.

Tuesday Evening Dialogue

TED will be on break until **January 14, 2025**. Our next book is to be determined as this point, but will be updated as soon as a new book is selected. Questions? Please contact Helen Race at raceh@att.net.

Coffee and Conversation at Panera

Tuesday, January 14, 2025 | 2pm | Panera on Manchester Road in Des Peres

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

No need to RSVP - just show up!

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

Prayer Corner: an opportunity to pray with someone

Monday, January 27, 2025 | 6-8pm | 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.

We can arrange a phone call or Zoom for another time if you'd like. Just reach out to **kevin@parkwayucc.org**

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

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**

Prayer List

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Celebrations

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

Welcome Declan Lewis - 2nd great grandson for Nancy/Jack Litzinger

PUCC 2025 Pledge Campaign - <https://parkwayucc.org/giving/>

Concerns

Rebecca Ray and Family - as they grieve/give thanks for her father.

Bill & Pat Owens Family - coping with a significant health setback.

Joyce and John Ruiz - healthy results from her recent hospital care.

Steve & Paige Penico Family - as they navigate his ALS.

Mary - grieving/giving thanks for her father; health concerns (Tarr).

Harold Webb - healing well from brain surgery (Burton and Grove).

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.

The people and leaders of Syria - starting a new chapter.

Continuing

Ben and Marilyn McDougall - healing after his knee surgery.

Gladys Sims - healing at home after hospitalization and rehab.

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

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, 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!

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.

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

CHRISTMAS IDIOMS

ACROSS

2. Eat, drink, and be _____
3. Deck the _____
5. The more, the _____
7. Cold enough to freeze the tail off a _____
9. Like turkeys voting for _____
11. All the _____ of the season
12. As snug as a bug in a _____
14. Good things come in small _____
16. Like a kid in a _____ store
17. Wrapped up like a _____
18. Bah, _____!

DOWN

1. Lit up like a Christmas _____
3. Don't look a gift _____ in the mouth
4. Feeling in the holiday _____
6. As busy as Santa's _____
8. Christmas came _____ this year
10. Don't get your tinsel in a _____
13. The proof is in the _____
15. Don't be a _____





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 Stewardship Commission
Harold Cobb George Lestina Kari Borgmann
Linda Tossing Ellie Svenson