





www.parkwayucc.org

January 05, 2025

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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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# 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** Michelle Brueggemann. Consider signing up to read scripture by scanning QR code.

**Flowers** Given by Karen Mariani in honor and memory of her husband's birthday. Please consider honoring, remembering or celebrating someone by providing flowers for worship.

**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://warmline.org/warmdir.html>

SQSH St. Louis Queer Support & Healing 314-380-7774 (Fri-Mon, 1-7pm)

## Birthdays

12/28 Bob Zoller

01/06 Bill Hilgeman

01/06 Ethan Tilly

01/07 Marilyn McDougall

01/08 Thomas Degroote

01/10 Thad Gwyn

01/11 Kathleen Tarr

01/11 Kacey Brueggemann

## Anniversaries

01/06 Emily Oehler & Josh Farr

01/10 Bill & Karen Nolte

# Epiphany Sunday

Sunday, January 05, 2025 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

**Meditation** I have one life and one chance to make it count for something... I'm free to choose what that something is, and the something I've chosen is my faith. Now, my faith goes beyond theology and religion and requires considerable work and effort. My faith demands -- this is not optional -- my faith demands that I do whatever I can, wherever I am, whenever I can, for as long as I can with whatever I have to try to make a difference. ~ Jimmy Carter

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

## Passing the Peace of Christ

“May the peace of Christ be with you.”

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

## Prelude

## Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

**Scripture Lesson** Isaiah 60:1-6 | New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and this glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

**Welcome Song** *Christ Be Our Light* (refrain)

Refrain

G C G Em Bm Em

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the

Refrain

Am7 D G Dsus D Em Em7

dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your

C Am7 D G Am7

church gath - ered to - day.

1-4 Last time  
G G

The image shows a musical score for the refrain of the song 'Christ Be Our Light'. It consists of three staves of music in G major. The first staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The notes are G4, C5, G4, E5, B4, G4, E5, G4. The lyrics are 'Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the'. The second staff has a key signature of one sharp and a common time signature. The notes are A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, D4, C4, B3, A3. The lyrics are 'dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your'. The third staff has a key signature of one sharp and a common time signature. The notes are G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The lyrics are 'church gath - ered to - day.'. There are two endings: the first is a repeat sign with '1-4' above and 'G' below; the second is a repeat sign with 'Last time' above and 'G' below.

## **Gospel Lesson** Matthew 2:1-12 | Common English Bible (CEB)

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. They asked, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We’ve seen his star in the east, and we’ve come to honor him.”

When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. They said, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote:

*“You, Bethlehem, land of Judah, by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah, because from you will come one who governs, who will shepherd my people Israel.”*

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search carefully for the child. When you’ve found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him.” When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

### **\*Call to Worship**

One: Upon a midnight clear, Jesus was born. Angels bend near the earth to offer “Peace on earth, good will to all.” Hear the angels sing!

**Many: They come with wonderful wings unfurled; and their heavenly music floats over all the world.**

One: The angels are hovering here. Can you see it? Can you feel it? Across the plains, mountains, valleys and oceans... *Hush.*

**Many: We are alert. We watch. We are listening. The angels are whispering and shouting the love song they bring.**

One: And the wise ones experience it and are drawn here. They follow the star and seek the holy embrace. They come with gifts.

**Many: We come too! We are drawn here. We have gifts to share – and to receive.**

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

**\*Song** We Three Kings of Orient Are | #66 Red Hymnal



*All:* 1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are,  
*Opt. solo:* 2. Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain,  
*Opt. solo:* 3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I:  
*Opt. solo:* 4. Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume  
*All:* 5. Glo - rious now be - hold Him a - rise,



Bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far, Field and foun - tain,  
Gold I bring to crown Him a - gain, King for ev - er,  
In - cense owns a De - i - ty nigh; Prayer and prais - ing  
Breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom; Sor - rowing, sigh - ing,  
King and God and Sac - ri - fice; Al - le - lu - ia,



moor and moun - tain, Fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
ceas - ing nev - er O - ver us all to reign.  
we are rais - ing, Wor - ship - ing God Most High.  
bleed - ing, dy - ing, Sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
Al - le - lu - ia Sounds through the earth and skies.



*Refrain*

O star of won - der, star of night,



Star with roy - al beau - ty bright; West - ward lead - ing,



still pro - ceed - ing, Guide us to thy per - fect light!

**\*Opening Prayer**

God of light and love, in this very moment the star still shines.  
Gather us and let the star call us to new ways of self-awareness,  
healing and hope, restoration and renewal, as we discover again  
Christ's call to follow in his ways. Amen.

**\*Response** Spirit of the Living God

Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me;  
Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.  
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me!  
Spirit of the living God fall afresh on 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 for communion or after worship. Children and youth from age 3 thru high school will return to the sanctuary for communion.

**Blessing the Children** *This Little Light of Mine*  
**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine**  
**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine**  
**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine**  
**Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!**

**Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm gonna let it shine...**  
**Don't let anyone blow it out! I'm gonna let it shine...**

### **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 Interlude**

#### **\*Response**

**Praise God the Source of life and birth.**  
**Praise God the Word, who came to earth.**  
**Praise God the Spirit, holy flame.**  
**All glory, honor to God's name! Amen.**

#### **\*Prayer of Dedication** Thom Schuman

**We do not have gold, frankincense or myrrh to offer, but we do give our tangible gifts in hopes that the lives of those who struggle might be touched, that refugees might be honored, and that those searching might find a community with us. In the name of the Christ Child still being found today, we pray. Amen.**

#### **Scripture** Matthew 2:1-12 | The Message (MSG)

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem village, Judah territory—this was during Herod's kingship—a band of scholars arrived in Jerusalem from the East. They asked around, "Where can we find and pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews? We observed a star in the eastern sky that signaled his birth. We're on pilgrimage to worship him."

When word of their inquiry got to Herod, he was terrified—and not Herod alone, but most of Jerusalem as well. Herod lost no time. He gathered all the high priests and religion scholars in the city together and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?"



They told him, “Bethlehem, Judah territory. The prophet Micah wrote it plainly:

It’s you, Bethlehem, in Judah’s land, no longer bringing up the rear. From you will come the leader who will shepherd-rule my people, my Israel.”

Herod then arranged a secret meeting with the scholars from the East. Pretending to be as devout as they were, he got them to tell him exactly when the birth-announcement star appeared. Then he told them the prophecy about Bethlehem, and said, “Go find this child. Leave no stone unturned. As soon as you find him, send word and I’ll join you at once in your worship.”

Instructed by the king, they set off. Then the star appeared again, the same star they had seen in the eastern skies. It led them on until it hovered over the place of the child. They could hardly contain themselves: They were in the right place! They had arrived at the right time!

They entered the house and saw the child in the arms of Mary, his mother. Overcome, they kneeled and worshiped him. Then they opened their luggage and presented gifts: gold, frankincense, myrrh.

In a dream, they were warned not to report back to Herod. So they worked out another route, left the territory without being seen, and returned to their own country.

## Reflection

**Scripture** Matthew 2:13-23 | NRSV

When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”

So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

“A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.”

After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child’s life are dead.”

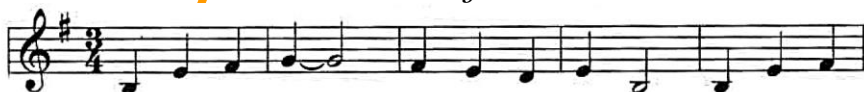
So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.



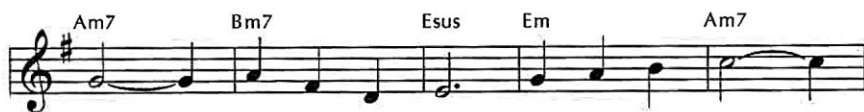
## Reflection

**Invitation to Communion** We invite *all* to this **open table**. All accepted—no exceptions—as we commit ourselves to limitless love, courageous action and spirited inquiry.

## Communion Hymn *Christ Be Our Light*



1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for  
2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for  
3 Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for  
4 Long-ing for shel-ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for  
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants

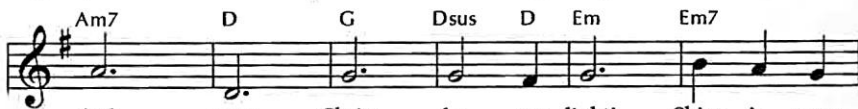


your ho - ly peo-ple, light for the world to see.  
has power to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
bro - ken for oth-ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
shel - ter - ing oth-ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the

Refrain



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath-ered to - day.

## **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.]

### **\*Breaking Bread & Pouring Wine/Juice**

Please come forward in the center aisle to receive the bread and wine. All are welcome! Gluten-free wafers are on the communion table. Grape juice is in the outer ring; wine is in the center circles. Please return by the side aisles.

### **\*Prayer of Thanksgiving** Thom Schuman

**Holy One of Great Light, you send down your Spirit of hope upon those gathered around this Table, and on the gifts of the bread and the cup, that they might make us your faithful and loving children. You have fed us with the bread of hope, so when we leave, we will travel another road—to defend the weak, to speak for the voiceless, to assist those cast aside. Refresh us with the sweet nectar of grace, so we, overwhelmed with joy, will go forth to enter the houses of the strangers in our time; to enter the despair of the lonely and forgotten; to enter the hearts of everyone we meet.**

**And when eternity's time begins and we are gathered around your Table, with friends and family we loved, with those we ignored and mistreated, with all our sisters and brothers of grace, we will lift our songs of glad joy to you, God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.**

## \*Song of Parting *In the Midst of New Dimensions*



- 1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
- 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo - ple, war-ring fac-tions and de - spair,
- 3 As we stand a world di - vid - ed by our own self - seek - ing schemes,
- 4 We are one and we are man - y all per-sua-sions, old and young,
- 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with - draw in pain,



Who will lead the pil - grim peo - ples wan-dering in their sep - arate ways?  
Who will lift the ol - ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?  
Grant that we, your glob - al vil - lage, might en - vi - sion wid - er dreams.  
Each a gift in your cre - a - tion, each a love song to be sung.  
May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir - it res - ur - rect the church a - gain.

*Refrain*



God of rain-bow, fier - y pil - lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your



peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev-er - more.

## \*Benediction

### \*God's Light Goes Forth

### \*Music for Going Forth

**Sending the Word Home** For your spiritual nourishment during the week.

### **LAST WEEK in Sunday School**

God chooses Mary to carry and give birth to the Messiah. Mary sings her gratitude (Luke 1:26-45 [46-56]).

### **TODAY in Sunday School**

The infant Jesus is presented to God at the temple, where two prophets share the good news with others. Later, a child Jesus stays behind in Jerusalem, impressing the temple leaders (Luke 2:21-38; Luke 2:41-52).

### **THE POINT**

**At the temple, Jesus is announced as the savior of the world.**

### **BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS**

The Jewish religious leaders we read about in the Gospels are not always well understood in our churches today. Priests led worship in the temple by making sacrifices and other offerings. Scribes were well educated and made copies of scrolls like the Torah. The leaders generally belonged to one of two groups. The Pharisees believed that the most important thing to do was to follow the rules found in the Law and the Prophets (our Old Testament). The Sadducees focused on worship in the temple.

### **STORY SUMMARY**

Mary and Joseph follow the Torah laws and custom for the firstborn son and present Jesus to God in the temple. The Holy Spirit sends Simeon to visit the temple where Simeon confirms Jesus' identity as God's salvation for the world. Another prophet at the temple, Anna, shares this news with all those who are looking forward to the Messiah. She reveals Jesus as savior. When Jesus is 12, and his family journeys home after the Passover festival, Jesus stays behind at the temple. Rather than following his earthly parents to their home, he spends time in his heavenly parent's house, discussing Scripture with the Jewish leaders. As a baby and as a young boy, Jesus' identity as the savior and Son of God is revealed at the temple.

### **PRACTICE: Worship**

Find Luke 2:30-32 and repeat it for an extended time of worship. As you do, take time to focus the worship on various parts of the passage: salvation and what it means to you, God having prepared deliverance for the world, and Jesus as the light not for one people group but for all. Worship God for God's love, for God's plan, for God's care for all, and for the revelation of God's Son.

### **NEXT WEEK in Sunday School**

John the Baptist prepares people to follow Jesus. When he baptizes Jesus, Jesus is proclaimed as the Son of God (Luke 3:1-22).

## GOING DEEPER

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God's message to us? Consider the following basic pattern as a way of forming family devotions:

- ❖ Light a candle to help you focus this time as "God time." Pray a simple prayer together.
- ❖ Take a moment to check in with each other; what are each person's "highs" and "lows" today?
- ❖ Read aloud from the Daily Bible Readings from below. Discuss the questions following each.
- ❖ End with a blessing, by simply tracing a cross on each other's forehead. The Lord's Prayer is a good way to end your devotion time. If you used a candle, extinguish it as a sign of the end of the devotions.

**Note:** This is only a suggested pattern. It will vary with your household's context and patterns. What works best for you? First thing in the morning? Over breakfast? Bedtime? Be creative and flexible with how you practice and keep your devotions!

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

### SUNDAY: Luke 2:41-52

Jesus is missing! If you were separated from your family because you stayed back at an area of interest, where would they find you?

### MONDAY: Genesis 17:9-14

God requires a sign of the covenant. To demonstrate the keeping of the covenant with God, males were circumcised. How do you show your commitment to God today?

### TUESDAY: Exodus 13:1-2

The firstborn is consecrated to God. What does this reveal about the place God wants in our lives?

### WEDNESDAY: Leviticus 26:3-6

God grants peace when God's ways are kept. What does this tell us about the concept of "you reap what you sow?"

### THURSDAY: Leviticus 26:7-13

The covenant is revealed. How does your life demonstrate that you know you belong to God?

### FRIDAY: Malachi 4:4-6

Advice is given regarding the coming of the Lord. How deliberately do you follow God's ways?

### SATURDAY: Isaiah 62:10-12

Isaiah proclaims the coming salvation. What does it mean to be a holy people? How does it feel to be sought by the Lord?

# 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)

## Let's pack UP Christmas for another year!

Sunday, January 5 | 11:15am | New Sanctuary

The Sanctuary Team invites anyone to stay a while after church on January 5 to assist in packing away our beautiful decorations for another year! We will need people able to climb ladders and take ornaments off the tree. Your help is greatly appreciated! Email Carol Cobb for more info [ccjacob@aol.com](mailto:ccjacob@aol.com).

## Saint Louis Area Volunteer Fair

Monday, January 6 | 1pm | 1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd. STL, MO 63131

Come to the Clark Family Branch St. Louis County Library to learn how you can get involved in our community by meeting with over 30 local organizations that are currently recruiting volunteers. Registration recommended. Scan QR code here.



## Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue—January 7

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

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

Please join with TAD as we begin our next book on January 7, *The Black Angels: The Untold Story of the Nurses Who Helped Cure Tuberculosis* by Maria Smilios. In the pre-antibiotic days when tuberculosis stirred people's darkest fears, killing one in seven, white nurses at Sea View, New York's largest municipal hospital, began quitting en masse. Desperate to avert a public health crisis, city officials summoned Black southern nurses, luring them with promises of good pay, a career, and an escape from the structures of Jim Crow. But after arriving, they found themselves on an isolated hilltop in the remote borough of Staten Island, yet again confronting racism and consigned to a woefully understaffed sanatorium. The book spans the Great Depression and moves through World War II and beyond. This true story follows the intrepid young women known by their patients as the "Black Angels." This book celebrates their legacy and spirit of survival.

TAD will read and discuss the book in 3 sessions, starting January 7, where we'll discuss section 1 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. Questions or comments? Please contact Jackie Eiffert [jeiffert2@gmail.com](mailto: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 **January 8, 2025**. 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)

## Adventurous Women Out Late 2025

Come build relationships with other PUCers in the New Year.

Hey ladies! Put these on your calendar! And we can add more! Just send me what you'd like to do! I am hoping to add a walking tour with the History Museum when they add weekend dates to their calendar (thanks for the idea Jackie Pleis Eiffert!)

Saturday, January 11: Golden Globe nominated movie TBA

- Carpool from church at 6pm.

Wednesday, February 12: SHUCKED! At the Fox Theater 7:30pm \$63 est.

- Carpool from church at 5:45pm

RSVP by January 1st to [cfbum@charter.net](mailto:cfbum@charter.net)

Sunday, March 2: ART IN BLOOM @ St. Louis Art Museum

- Carpool from church at 12pm. RSVP to [cfbum@charter.net](mailto:cfbum@charter.net)

Saturday, April 12: Come volunteer at the Church community Easter Egg Hunt, then come out for LUNCH at Casas de Très Reyes in Des Peres

Saturday, May 24: PJs and a Rom-Com in the Heritage Room 6pm.

Bring a snack to share! Movie TBA

## Speaker Series Occasional opportunities after worship at 11:15am

**"John R. Mott (1865-1955) and the Crafting of a World Christian Movement" by Prof. Ben Hartley, Eden Seminary.**

January 12 | 11:15am | Heritage Room

We welcome our speaker, Ben Hartley, recently appointed to the faculty of Eden. Prof. Hartley describes John R. Mott as the "father" of the World Council of Churches. But, he was much more than that. A Nobel Peace Prize recipient in 1946, Mott was a friend of US presidents, a diplomat, and a "go-between" of sorts with people around the world who were both theological liberals and theological conservatives. In his presentation, Prof. Hartley will speak about Mott's life as well as some of the joys and challenges the professor is encountering as he works to write a compelling biography of this important person. This program is sponsored by the Parkway Speakers Series.

For questions, kindly contact Richard Scherrer at [90fivetpr@gmail.com](mailto:90fivetpr@gmail.com)

## Coffee and Conversation at Panera

Tuesday, January 14 | 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](mailto:kevin@parkwayucc.org); 314-872-9330



## Tuesday Evening Dialogue

January 14 | 6-8pm | Heritage Room

Zoom Meeting ID: 849 4403 9731; Passcode: 792617

Please join us for our book discussion of *The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell* by Robert Dugoni. This is a novel about the life of Sam Hill, a boy born with ocular albinism, and tracks his journey from childhood to adulthood as he navigates the challenges of being different in a world that often values conformity. He is picked on, teased and attacked but how he, his parents and his friends deal with it are what makes this story soar. His parents' unrelenting faith in God and impenetrable dedication to each other is sometimes smothering, often fanatical yet always loving. This book covers so much: marriage, faith, race, revenge, abuse, romance, puberty, motherhood, Christianity, bullying, feminism, alcoholism and rectitude.

We will break down this book into 3 to 4 sessions beginning on January 14.

Potluck at 6pm followed by a book discussion at 7pm that evening with a Zoom option for those unable to make it person. Newcomers are always welcome! For questions, please contact Helen Race at [raceh@att.net](mailto:raceh@att.net).

## Interfaith Service & Moral Mass Meeting

January 20 | 6pm | Zoom (more details to come)

*For Such a Time as This*, a prophetic response to America's defining moment. This Zoom service will feature an ensemble of prolific religious leaders, including UCC's General Minister Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson. More details to come. Visit [ucc.org](http://ucc.org) for more info.

**The third Monday in January is a day of remembrance.** It is the day we observe the birth of U.S. civil rights activist and Baptist minister Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

But did you know that this day is one of only two Congressionally Designated Days of Service, the other being September 11th? In 1994, President Bill Clinton signed the King Holiday and Service Act into law, 26 years after Dr. King's assassination. Dr. King envisioned a "Beloved Community," where people from all walks of life uplift each other. The Act calls Americans to take action and improve their communities. Acts of kindness don't need to be limited to one day or organization. Simple gestures, like helping a neighbor with snow or offering a kind note, can create a lasting impact. Here are some ideas to spark your next act of kindness or plan for community involvement:

- Volunteer to be a book reader at your local elementary school and read a children's book about Dr. King or another activist
- Sign up to volunteer with Meals on Wheels America, an organization dedicated to addressing senior isolation and hunger
- Find a local volunteer opportunity through AmeriCorps Volunteer Search.
- Check out the MLK Day of Service website to find volunteer opportunities dedicated to celebrating Dr. King

## **Parkway UCC Inquirers' Gathering**

Wednesday, January 22 | 6:30-7:45pm | Parkway UCC, Heritage Room

OR Sunday, January 26 | 11:15am-12:15pm

An inquirer is someone who wants to know more about Parkway UCC and who wants to be known as well.

The next PARKWAY UCC Inquirers' Gathering is just around the corner. Our goals that evening include:

- getting to know one another a bit more
- describing our worship, outreach, education, leadership, fellowship
- taking a look at our denomination, the United Church of Christ
- sharing ideas about the exciting future of Parkway UCC
- soliciting your thoughts on how we can be a more welcoming and inviting community of faith
- discussing some key issues of faith
- answering any of your questions

You will find our time together meaningful and informative.

Some churches call this sort of gathering a New Members Class – we do not.

While we do know that there are some visitors who have expressed interest in becoming members of the church, we do not assume that Inquirers are seeking membership. We just want to be hospitable, get to know you and have the chance to express gratitude for your presence among us.

Please let us know if you are planning to be with us! Childcare is available upon request. [kevin@parkwayucc.org](mailto:kevin@parkwayucc.org); 314-872-9330

## **Join the PUCC Adventurers for Lunch at John Mineo's**

Thurs, Jan 23 | 11:30am-1:30pm | 13490 Clayton Rd, Town & Country

You are invited to join the PUCC Adventurers as we venture out to lunch at John Mineo's Italian Restaurant in Town and Country. Enjoy a relaxed lunch of salad, pasta, a sandwich, or soup, and get to know some of your fellow PUCCers. We hope to see you there! Meet at the restaurant at 11:30 at 13490 Clayton Road. Please RSVP to Carol Cobb by January 19, [ccjacob@aol.com](mailto:ccjacob@aol.com)

## **Prayer Corner: an opportunity to pray with someone**

Monday, January 27 | 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](mailto:kevin@parkwayucc.org)

## **SAVE THE DATE: West County Interfaith Alliance Event**

Sunday, February 23 | 2-3:30pm | St Timothy's Episcopal Church 63141

**Love Your Neighbor** is the theme! We will have mixers, engage in a community service project and enjoy one another over refreshments. PUCC is looking for someone to be on the planning team for this event. If you are interested, please reach out to [kevin@parkwayucc.org](mailto:kevin@parkwayucc.org) today.

\*We will soon begin collecting items for the event: protein bars, instant coffee packets, water bottles, hand sanitizer, baby wipes, dried fruit, Band-Aids, ChapStick, toothbrush/toothpaste.

## **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**

## **OUR MUSIC MINISTRY -- SEARCH TEAM**

Our Church Council has formed a Search Team to find our next Organist/Pianist and/or Choir Director, potentially one person for both roles or two individuals. The team, commissioned in November, includes Keith Borgmann, Michelle Brueggemann, Elijah Gwyn, Jessica Gwyn, George Lestina, Helen Race, Marsha Peek (ex officio, Personnel Relations), and Kevin Cameron (ex officio, Pastor). Please pray for Barry, the Search Team, and those considering joining us at Parkway UCC.

As we move forward, we invite individuals to join our music program—whether to sing solos, duets, trios, or quartets seasonally (Advent/Christmas or Lent/Easter), monthly with the First Sunday Choir, or twice a month with the Sanctuary Choir. We're also seeking instrumentalists and those interested in joining a hand chime choir. Share your favorite hymns and songs with us! Lastly, we would like to hear your ideas about music at PUCC. Reach out via **employment@parkwayucc.org**

## **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

Thursday, January 2, 2025

## Celebrations

*The Twelve Days of Christmas and Epiphany on the horizon!*  
**PUCC 2025 Pledge Campaign** - <https://parkwayucc.org/giving/>  
**New Year Blessings!**

## Concerns

**Individuals and families grieving as we enter the new year.**

**\*Barry Luedloff** - open-heart surgery 12/30; retired 12/24; BDay 01/01

**Avery Borgmann** - healing after hospitalization for severe RSV.

**Peggy Sieber** - recuperating after knee replacement surgery.

**Yara Changyit-Levin** - healing from recent surgery.

**Bill & Pat Owens Family** - coping with his significant health setback; grateful for all the cards, emails and texts of love & support.

**Becca Palmgren** - healing for her broken foot.

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

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

**Rick** - receiving chemotherapy (father of Laura Waite).

**Baby Elly** - in the NICU; mom has been through a lot (Tarr).

**Mark McKenzie** - making progress ... praying for healing momentum.

**The Carter Family** - grieving and giving thanks for Jimmy.

**The people of New Orleans** - coping with lethal violence there.

**The people of South Korea** - aftermath of the deadly plane crash.

**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.

## Continuing

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

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

**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).

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

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

**Kari Borgmann** - her mom turns 101 in 2025; 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 Stolz 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 #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.**

**PUC C Family** struggling with employment; healthcare costs and limits.

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

**Gabriel Requadt** and his initial MID interview with the STL Assn

**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.

### \* **Barry Luedloff**

1939 Wentzille Pkwy #136  
Wentzville, MO 63385

+ **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 you'll be added to call list. Thx!