



PARKWAY  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



www.parkwayucc.org

January 12, 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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2841 North Ballas Road | St. Louis, MO 63131 | 314-872-9330 [p] | 314-872-9014 [f]  
parkwayucc.org | contact@parkwayucc.org

Lana Biondo, *President of the Church Council* [puccpresident@parkwayucc.org]

Kevin Cameron, *Pastor* [kevin@parkwayucc.org]

Gabriel Requadt, *Christian Ed & Admin Support; Licensed Minister*  
[gabriel@parkwayucc.org]

Mona Smith Herberg, *Webside and Graphic Design* [mona@parkwayucc.org]

Kathy Ferrell *Office Assistant and Building Manager* [kathy@parkwayucc.org]

John Dwyer, *Treasurer* [treasurer@parkwayucc.org]

Dawn Friedmann, *Bookkeeper* [dawn@parkwayucc.org]

Julie Connors and Becca Palmgren, *Nursery* [juliestl1992@yahoo.com]

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

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

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

John Nourse, *Pastor Emeritus*

# Welcome *to* Parkway

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

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

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



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

**Flowers** In memory and celebration of Bill Owens. 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

1/12 Ashley Milam

1/14 Marsha Peek

1/14 Janie Pillai

1/15 Mildred Hoxie

1/17 Bobbi Miller

1/17 Sarah Lowenthal

# Baptism of Christ Sunday

Sunday, January 12, 2025 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Thank you and welcome to Ruth Tweeten, our guest organist today!

**Prelude** *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing* | Diane Bish

**Meditation** For any movement to gain momentum, it must start with a small action. ~Adam Braun

**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.)

## Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

**Scripture Lesson** Mark 1:1-11 | Common English Bible (CEB)

The beginning of the good news about Jesus Christ, God’s Son, happened just as it was written about in the prophecy of Isaiah: *Look, I am sending my messenger before you. He will prepare your way, a voice shouting in the wilderness:*

“Prepare the way for the Lord; make his paths straight.”

John the Baptist was in the wilderness calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. Everyone in Judea and all the people of Jerusalem went out to the Jordan River and were being baptized by John as they confessed their sins. John wore clothes made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. He announced,

“One stronger than I am is coming after me. I’m not even worthy to bend over and loosen the strap of his sandals. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

About that time, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. While he was coming up out of the water, Jesus saw heaven splitting open and the Spirit, like a dove, coming down on him. And there was a voice from heaven:

“You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness.”

## Welcome Song

You are wel - come here, no mat ter who you are, no mat ter  
 where you are on life's jour - ney. You are wel come here,  
 no mat -ter who you are, come and  
 join with us, in our U - ni -ted Church of Christ...

## \*Call to Worship Sylvia Dunstan

One:	Crashing waters at creation, ordered by the spirit's breath, first to witness day's beginning from the brightness of night's death.
Many:	<b>Parting water stood and trembled as the captives passed on through, washing off the chains of bondage: channel to a life made new.</b>
One:	Cleansing water once at Jordan closed around the one love-told, opened to reveal the glory ever new and ever old.
Many:	<b>Living water, never ending, quench the thirst and flood the soul. Well-spring, Source of life eternal, drench our dryness, make us whole.</b>
All:	<b>Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.</b>

## \*Song Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing | #356 red hymnal

**Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,  
 Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
 Streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
 call for songs of loudest praise.  
 Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
 sung by flaming tongues above;  
 Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,  
 mount of Thy enfolding love.**

**This my glad commemoration  
 that till now I've safely come;  
 And I know, by Thy good pleasure,  
 safely I'll arrive at home.  
 Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
 wandering from the fold of God.  
 He to rescue me from danger,  
 interposed his precious love.**

**O to grace I'm very grateful,  
 daily I live hopefully!  
 Let Thy goodness, like a fetter,  
 bind my wandering heart to thee:  
 Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
 prone to leave the God I love:  
 Here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
 seal it for Thy courts above.**

**\*Opening Prayer** UCC Book of Worship, adapted

**We thank you, God, for the gift of creation called forth by your saving Word. Before the world had shape and form, your Spirit moved over the waters. Out of the waters of the deep, you formed the firmament and brought forth the earth to sustain all life. In the time of Noah you washed the earth with the waters of the flood, and your ark of salvation bore a new beginning. In the time of Moses, Aaron, and Miriam, your people Israel passed through the Red Sea waters from slavery to freedom and crossed the flowing Jordan to enter the promised land. In the fullness of time you sent Jesus Christ who was nurtured in the water of Mary's womb. Jesus was baptized by John in the water of the Jordan, became living water to a woman at the Samaritan well, washed the feet of the disciples, and sent them forth to baptize all nations by water and the Holy Spirit. Bless this water, Gracious God, that by it we may enliven us for living and loving. Amen.**

**\*Response** *Spirit of the Living God* | #322 *red hymnal*

**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 01 (upper level) where one of our teachers will meet them at the door. Children and youth will gather in Room 13 (lower level) for the Opening Session. Children from age 3 to 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 01, parents please pick them up after worship. Children and youth from age 3 thru high school can be met in the Gathering Space just outside the Sanctuary after worship, as the teachers will bring them back upstairs after class.

**Blessing the Children** *Jesus Loves the Little Children*

**Jesus loves the little children,  
All the children of the world.  
Every child in every land,  
Jesus holds them by the hand.  
Jesus loves the little children of the world.**

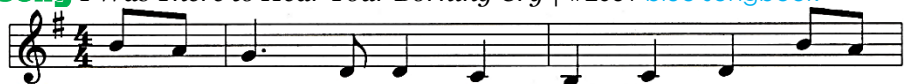
**Hebrew Scripture** Isaiah 43:1-7 | New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

But now thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

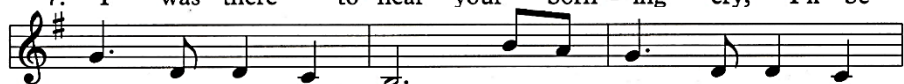
For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life.

Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

**Song** *I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry* | #2051 *blue songbook*



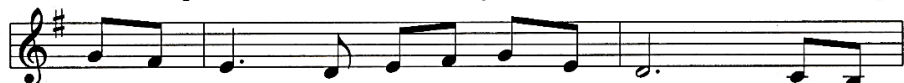
1. I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be  
 3. When you heard the won - der of the Word, I was  
 5. In the mid - dle ag - es of your life, not too  
 7. I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be



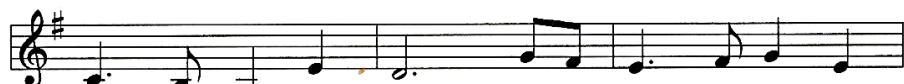
there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you  
 there to cheer you on. You were raised to praise the  
 old, no long - er young, I'll be there to guide you  
 there when you are old, I re - joiced the day you



were bap - tized to see your life un - fold.  
 liv - ing Lord to whom you now be - long.  
 through the night, com - plete what I've be - gun.  
 were bap - tized to see your life un - fold.



2. I was there when you were but a child with a  
 4. If you find some-one to share your time and you  
 6. When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you



faith to suit you well; in a blaze of light you  
 join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your  
 shut your wea - ry eyes, I'll be there as I have



wan - dered off to find where de - mons dwell.  
 vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun.  
 al - ways been with just one more sur - prise.

## **Gospel Lesson** Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 | NRSV

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

## **Moment of Silent Reflection**

### **Sermon**

#### **Affirmation of Baptism** James Burklo

In the name of the Father, in the name of the Mother,  
**source of life, from whom water flows, to whom water returns,**

In the name of the Son, in the name of the Daughter,  
**flesh and blood in whom we meet the Divine,**  
**born of the physical water of childbirth and the subtle water of Spirit,**

In the name of the Spirit, the Word, holy Mother Wisdom,  
**ideal formless form, wind that moves water,**  
**unseen energy, bliss of creativity, rapturous beauty,**

We baptize you with this water,  
**and wash away all that obscures God from your soul,**  
**so that you may become a clear, clean mirror reflecting the presence of the divine.**

With this water we awaken you to your divine nature,  
**ordain you to works of service and compassion,**  
**and confirm your intention to grow in love for God and all beings.**



## A Time of Prayer *As the Deer* | #2025 blue songbook

As the deer pants for the wa-ter, so my soul longs af - ter  
you. You a - lone are my heart's de - sire, and I  
long to wor - ship you. You a - lone are my  
strength, my shield; to you a - lone may my spir - it  
yield. You a - lone are my heart's de -  
sire, and I long to wor - ship you.

## 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.]

### 2025 Stewardship Moment Linda Tossing

### Offering Our Gifts to God



If you have an offering today, please place it in the plate on 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 *Spirit Medley* | Mark Hayes

## **\*Response**

(tune: Old Hundredth red hymnal #591)

**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** Rosemary McCombs Maxey

**O God, we rejoice in your grace, given and received. We thank you that you claim us, wash us, strengthen us, and guide us, that you empower us to live a life worthy of our calling. In the way of Jesus, make us as water in a dry and thirsty world. Establish us to be places of refreshment. Root us and nurture us in love, that with all your people, that we may rightly and justly serve you. Fill us with your fullness that our lives may overflow in service and love. Amen**

## **\*Song of Parting** *Down by the Jordan*

(Tune: Hymn #482 *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*)

**Down by the Jordan, a prophet named John was baptizing,**

**Preaching a message the people found bold and surprising:**

**“God will forgive! Show that you’ll change how you live!**

**Surely God’s new day is rising!”**

**There by the river, the crowd came with great expectation:**

**“Are you God’s Chosen One, sent here to rescue our nation?”**

**“No!” John replied. “He who is mightier than I**

**Judges and offers salvation.”**

**Jesus, you went to be baptized along with the others,**

**Taking your place among sinners, God’s lost sons and daughters.**

**Then with great love, God’s Spirit came as a dove!**

**Your work began in those waters.**

**Here in the Church, we are baptized and filled with God’s Spirit.**

**Freed and forgiven, we’re welcomed with joy! Can you hear it?**

**This is God’s sign! This is how God says, “You’re mine!”**

**Let’s take the good news and share it!**

## **\*Benediction**

## **\*God’s Light Goes Forth**

### **Announcements**

## **\*Postlude** *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing* | Gordon Young

### **LAST WEEK 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).

### **TODAY 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).

### **THE POINT**

**Jesus is proclaimed as the Son of God.**

### **BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS**

The Bible contains several different categories of writing with specific purposes. One of these categories in the New Testament is Gospel, which literally means “good news.” In the Roman Empire, the good news was always about the Roman emperor, who was celebrated as a son of a god and savior of the people. The four Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—tell the story of Jesus’ life, ministry, death, and resurrection. But they are not impartial biographies; they were written to share the good news that the Messiah God had promised to send had arrived. The Roman emperor was not god and savior, Jesus was. Jesus was a king with a kingdom in a way the emperor could never be.

### **STORY SUMMARY**

At the Jordan River, John the Baptist proclaims the coming of Jesus and the need for repentance. He prepares people who have wandered from God to meet the Lord, the Messiah. The people are curious. How can they change, and where can they find this Messiah? Is John the Messiah? John makes it clear that he is the messenger preparing the way; he is not the Messiah. At Jesus’ baptism, a voice from heaven proclaims that Jesus is God’s Beloved Son.

### **PRACTICE: Worship**

Rituals are an important part of worship and often help us recognize the work of the Holy Spirit. One way to worship at home is with a simple ritual to remember your baptisms or dedications. Gather your family around a bowl of water. Have each member dip their finger into the water and trace the sign of the cross another member’s forehead. As they do, they can say, “You are a child of God, marked with the cross of Christ forever!”

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

Jesus goes to his hometown and declares himself to be the Messiah, sent to those on the margins of society. The people become angry and intend to hurt Jesus, but he escaped unharmed (Luke 4:14-30).

## 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 3:1-22

John the Baptist prepares the way for Jesus. What in your life has turned away from following Jesus?

### MONDAY: Malachi 3:1-4

A prophesy tells of one who will prepare the way. A refiner uses a fire to remove impurities from metal; how will God refine people?

### TUESDAY: Acts 19:1-7

Paul baptizes disciples in Ephesus. What is the connection between baptism in Jesus and having the Holy Spirit?

### WEDNESDAY: Ephesians 4:1-7

Paul speaks of one body and one God. How do you lead a life worthy of your calling (Ephesians 4:1)?

### THURSDAY: Luke 3:23-38

Jesus begins his work. What would you like to be doing at age 30? Or, what were you doing at age 30?

### FRIDAY: Luke 4:1-4

Jesus is tempted in the wilderness. How does Jesus stand up against temptation?

### SATURDAY: Luke 4:5-13

The temptation of Jesus continues. Do you see value in memorizing Bible verses? What might it be?

# 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)

## **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.

## **"Christian Nationalism; What is It and Should We be Worried?" by John Russell.**

January 19 | 11:15am | Heritage Room

John Russell, a long time Parkway member, is a bright, creative scholar, who has presented a number of Speakers Series programs over the years to wide acclaim. We always welcome learning about his next interest.

This time it's something called Christian Nationalism, which is if nothing else controversial. Its followers seek to establish an exclusive version of Christianity as the dominant moral and cultural order. In countries with a state church, Christian nationalists seek to preserve the status of a Christian state. What? Can that be happening in America? Apparently so. See you then. Questions? 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!

Other dates: **Wednesday, February 12** at 2pm; **Monday, March 24** at 7pm; **Friday, April 25** at 10am; **Tuesday, May 20** at 2pm

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).

## 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 15**. 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)

## LGBTQ+ Faith Alliance Opportunities

The new LGBTQ+ Faith Alliance, a gathering of like-minded, like-hearted, like-spirited interfaith folk from around St Louis, is facilitated by PUCcEr Debbie Reinhardt. Their first meeting of 2025 is at the end of the month. Between now and then, you might want to engage in some of these opportunities:

Learn about Bayard Rustin, an activist who formulated many of the strategies that propelled the American civil rights movement, in the screening of a documentary, "Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin," from 5-8pm on **Thursday, January 16** at the Missouri History Museum's Lee Auditorium. Rustin's open homosexuality forced him to remain in the background, marking him as a "brother outsider." Go

<https://mohistory.org/events> for details and consider adding this to your MLK weekend activities.

PROMO Missouri offers a virtual webinar, "Testimony 101: How to Write/Advocate in Missouri" at 5pm on **Thursday, January 16**. Go to <https://www.mobilize.us/promomissouri/> to sign up.

Questions? Please contact [Debbie dreinhartstl@gmail.com](mailto:Debbie.dreinhartstl@gmail.com)

## 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 <https://breachrepairers.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

## Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue—January 21

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 21, *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 21, where we'll discuss section 2 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)

## Parkway UCC Inquirers' Gathering

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

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 PUCS 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 PUCS 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 PUCSers. 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, [ccjcobb@aol.com](mailto:ccjcobb@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)

Other dates: **Tuesday, February 25** from 7-9am; **Monday, March 10** from 2-4pm; **Wednesday, April 16** from 10am-12pm; **Monday, May 12** from 6-8pm

## January 2025 Alzheimer's News

Alzheimer's Breakthrough: A New Brain Cell Target Identified!

Marc Aurel Busche, Rikesh Rajani, and colleagues at the UK Dementia Research Institute discovered that amyloid beta peptides are produced by oligodendrocytes, specialized fatty cells that insulate neurons and enable rapid brain processing. These cells may also play a role in Alzheimer's development.



Busche suggests that targeting oligodendrocytes could stop amyloid beta production without causing other issues, potentially slowing disease progression. Their research indicates that oligodendrocytes are among the first cells to react to abnormal proteins in Alzheimer's, changing their function in response.

Further investigation into these cells could reveal new therapeutic strategies to improve outcomes for Alzheimer's patients.

Learn more at [www.alz.org/help-support/resources](http://www.alz.org/help-support/resources) or call the Alzheimer's Helpline at 800-272-3900, available 24/7 with master's-level clinicians for crisis support, decision-making, and disease info. Virtual caregiver resources are at [www.alz.org/covid19help](http://www.alz.org/covid19help), with tools in Spanish.

Want to learn more about the Alzheimer's Association and what they do here in St. Louis? Visit [alz.org](http://alz.org) and/or contact PUC's Faith Outreach Ambassador with the Alzheimer's Association, Joyce Ruiz at [joyceruiz7@gmail.com](mailto:joyceruiz7@gmail.com)

## **Annual Youth Lock-In for Middle and High Schoolers**

Friday Feb. 7-8, 5:00pm-8:00am | Parkway United Church of Christ

Bring your youth to our Annual Lock-In! Dinner and a movie, snacks and games galore, a scavenger hunt, and awesome fellowship. Best part, it's free! Gabriel Requadt is leading this event, so we need another adult volunteer who represents a different gender if we would like it to be overnight. Contact [gabriel@parkwayucc.org](mailto:gabriel@parkwayucc.org) for more info.

## **Adventurous Women Out Late 2025**

Come build relationships with other PUCers in 2025.

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

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

## **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. PUC 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 info from [kevin@parkwayucc.org](mailto: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**

## **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 (Lent/Easter or Advent/Christmas), 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! Other art forms and creativity are also welcome!

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

Wednesday, January 8, 2025

## Celebrations

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

## Concerns

**Pat Owens, Pam Owens and Family** - grieving and giving thanks for Bill. <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/legacyremembers/william-owens-obituary?id=57185772>

**Family/friends of Pinky Wilcoxon** - including her sister Ruth Peace - as they all cherish her memory; funeral arrangements pending.

**Marv Herpel** - healing after hardware implanted to repair leg after fall.

**\*Barry Luedloff** - healing after open-heart surgery and pacemaker.

**Jackie Eiffert** - preparing for hip replacement surgery on January 14.

**John Nourse** - home after a couple of days in the hospital.

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

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

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

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

**Phil and Amy and daughter B** - as his terminal illness progresses.

**The Family of Heather Arends** - grieving (Amy Yakel's cousin).

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

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

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

**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).

**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 Stolze and family** - her chronic health challenges.

**Bill & Nancy Darland** - his ongoing health issues.

**Gail, Bill and Christopher Haack** - chronic health challenges.

**Theresa** - surgery/treatment/recovery - aggressive cancer (Schwarz).

## Home-Centered/Care Facility/Rehab Center

**Lewis Junior Burcham** - *The Glenwood*; 1635 N. Baltimore Ave #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; meadletter22@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]

## Other

**Pres Biden, VP Harris, Congress**, all local, national, world leaders.

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

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

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

**Gabriel Requadt** and his MID interview with the STL Assn, Jan. 9

**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 Wentzville 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!