





www.parkwayucc.org

February 16, 2025

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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.

Worship Serving

Scripture Reader is Dawn Jones-Goldstein.

Flowers given by Judy McLachlin in memory of her husband, Bob.

Treats after worship provided by Evelyn Buretta.

If you would like to volunteer for any of these serving opportunities or join a group, please scan the QR code and click on the **Serving Opportunities Calendar**. Thanks!



Subscribe to our email lists Sign up at www.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

2/16 Harrison Tallyn

2/16 Sterling Tallyn

2/18 Dexter Cameron

2/18 Pat Owens

2/18 Bill Nolte

2/18 Donna Simons

2/21 Bill Langenbacher

2/21 Jessica Connors

2/21 Kevin Seetharaman

2/22 Eddy DeLong

2/22 Charlotte Smith

6th Sunday *after* Epiphany

Sunday, February 16, 2025 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Thank you and welcome to Amy Freeman, our new Organist/Pianist!

Prelude

Welcome Let us know you are here!

Meditation The best moments in reading are when you come across something – a thought, a feeling, a way of looking at things – which you had thought special and particular to you. Now here it is, set down by someone else, a person you have never met, someone who may even be long dead. And it is as if a hand has come out and taken yours. ~Alan Bennett

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

Welcome Song *Come, Christians, Join to Sing* | #150, v2 Red Hymnal



1. Come, Chris-tians, join to sing Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
2. Come, lift your hearts on high; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
3. Praise yet our Christ a - gain; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!



Loud praise to Christ our King; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
Let prais - es fill the sky; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
Life shall not end the strain; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!



Let all, with heart and voice, Be - fore His throne re - joice;
He is our guide and friend; To us He'll con - de - scend;
On heav-en's bliss - ful shore His good - ness we'll a - dore,



Praise is His gra-cious choice; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
His love shall nev - er end; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
Sing - ing for - ev - er - more, “Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!”

Scripture Luke 6:17-26 | New Revised Standard Version

Jesus came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then Jesus looked up at his disciples and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

***Call to Worship** based on words by Cheryl Lindsay

| | |
|--------------|--|
| One: | We worship as individuals and as community. |
| Many: | Embodied Love has come down to join us. |
| One: | Grace has come down to bless and encourage us. |
| Many: | Spirit has come down to empower and equip us. |
| One: | The Holy comes down to be with the world in tangible and invisible ways. |
| Many: | All people and places are in need of hope and encouragement. |
| One: | So, we come with consistent faith and forward thinking. |
| Many: | We are here in this sacred space to receive another infusion of the gifts of God. |
| One: | We are available, vulnerable and eager to be of service in the real world. |
| All: | Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit. |

***Song Blessed** *Are the Poor Among You* | Carolyn Winfrey Gilette

(tune: *Standing on the Promises*)

Blessed are the poor among you, Jesus said.
Blessed are you hungry ones who long for bread.
Blessed are you mournful when your tears abound.
God is turning everything around.
Hear the good news!
God is giving you the kingdom and the laughter.
God will fill you...
And you will know the joy that overflows.

Blessed are you weary who are long oppressed,
All because you follow God in faithfulness.
Leap for joy, for God will give you life anew.
Long ago, the prophets struggled, too!
Hear the good news!
God is giving you the kingdom and the laughter.
God will fill you...
And you will know the joy that overflows.

Woe to all you rich who live with blinders on,
Feasting at your tables till the food is gone.
Woe to you who laugh and live without a care,
Woe! when people praise you everywhere.
God has spoken:
You have all received your joy and consolation.
I was hungry...
But did you share what God had given you?

God, your way of working is a great surprise!
Help us all to see your world through faithful eyes.
Only in your kingdom is our true joy found.
By your Spirit, turn our lives around!
Yours is good news!
You have offered us the kingdom and the laughter.
Please, God, fill us,
And we will know the joy that overflows.

***Opening Prayer** Cheryl Lindsay

Abiding God, you come near to us. We give thanks that you do not turn away from us when our lives reflect messiness, ungraciousness, and complacency. Take us deeper, O God, and help us to confront what needs to be known, addressed, and changed within us, our community, and our world. Help us to embrace a life of accountability and transformation for the hope of humanity. 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 09 (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 5th grade will then go to Room 12, and youth from 6th to 12th grade will go to Room 15. For children in Room 01, parents please pick them up after worship. Children and youth from age 3 thru high school can be met in the Gathering Space just outside the Sanctuary after worship, as the teachers will bring them back upstairs after class.

Blessing the Children *Guide My Feet* | #354, v1-2 **Red Hymnal**



1. Guide my feet
 2. Hold my hand while I run this race,
 3. Stand by me
 4. I'm Your child



Guide my feet
 Hold my hand while I run this race,
 Stand by me
 I'm Your child



Guide my feet
 Hold my hand while I run this race, For I
 Stand by me
 I'm Your child



don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)

Scripture Psalm 1 | Inclusive Language Psalter

Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful! Their delight is in the law of God, and they meditate on God's law day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper. It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away. Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous. For God knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked is doomed.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon

A Time of Prayer *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* | #363 Red Hymnal



1. I want Je - sus to walk with me; (Walk with me)
2. In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
3. When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me; When



I want Je - sus to walk with me; (Walk with me)
In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



All a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
When my heart is al - most break - ing,
When my head is bowed in sor - row,



1.2.3. Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me. (with me)

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.]

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 also offering plates in the Gathering Space outside the sanctuary. Thank you for your generosity.

www.parkwayucc.org/giving

Offering Interlude

***Response** *Let All Things Now Living* | #554 **Red Hymnal**

Unison



1. Let all things now liv - ing A song of thanks - giv - ing
2. By law God en - forc - es. The stars in their cours - es,
To God our Cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise;
The sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;
Who fash - ioned and made us, Pro - tect - ed and stayed us,
The hills and the moun - tains, The riv - ers and foun - tains,
By guid - ing us on to the end of our days.
The depths of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.

Harmony



God's ban - ners are o'er us, Pure light goes be - fore us,
We, too, should be voic - ing Our love and re - joic - ing
A pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night:
With glad ad - o - ra - tion, a song let us raise:

Unison



Till shad - ows have van - ished, All fear - ful - ness ban - ished,
Till all things now liv - ing U - nite in thanks - giv - ing,
As for - ward we trav - el from light in - to Light.
To God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise.

***Prayer of Dedication** Cheryl Lindsay

Holy One, you have planted generosity in our hearts. Receive our gifts as part of your priceless work to save the world from inequities, pain, and despair. May our resources be renewed and magnified so that all needs are met and your ways of love multiply. Amen.

***Song of Parting** *O For a World* | #386 Red Hymnal



1. O for a world where ev - ery - one Re - spects each oth - er's ways,
2. O for a world where goods are shared And mis - er - y re - lieved,
3. We wel - come one world fam - i - ly And strug - gle with each choice
4. The poor are rich, the weak are strong, The fool - ish ones are wise.



Where love is lived and all is done With jus - tice and with praise.
Where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, E - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
That o - pens us to u - ni - ty And gives our vi - sion voice.
Tell all who mourn; Out - casts be - long, Who per - ish - es will rise.

***Benediction**

***God's Light Goes Forth**

Announcements

***Music for Going Forth**

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

Speaker Series Occasional opportunities after worship at 11:15am **My Experiences as a CASA Volunteer, by PUCCEr Helen Race.**

February 16 | 11:15am | Heritage Room

There are over 12,000 children in foster care in Missouri, with more than 5,000 in the St. Louis area. Being separated from family is deeply traumatic for children. CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) volunteers provide consistent, supportive adult presence for children in foster care. They work with case workers and the Court to ensure the child's needs are met. While case workers and placements may change, the child's CASA remains a steady, reliable figure. Helen Race, a Parkway member, has been a CASA for over 5 years and finds the experience both meaningful and impactful. Learn more about the CASA program and how it helps children through some of their toughest times. It's a rewarding role for anyone wanting to make a difference, one child at a time.

For questions, kindly contact Richard Scherrer at 90fivetpr@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 **February 19**. 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

PUCC Adventurers Are Going to the Basilica

Thursday, February 20 | 10am-1:30pm | 4431 Lindell Blvd., 63108

You are invited to join with the PUCC Adventurers for a one-hour guided tour of the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis. Lunch will follow at The Foundry. The tour starts at 10am, and if you'd like to carpool, please meet at Parkway UCC by 9:30am. The Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, nicknamed the "Rome of the West," is a gorgeous one-of-a-kind work of art. With its lofty vaults and radiant mosaics, the sheer scale of beauty is a thing of awe. More than a dozen architects' and artisans' concepts and works have coalesced in a magnificently well-integrated and harmonious whole. The main structure of the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis was completed in 1914. Like the stained glass in the sanctuary at Parkway UCC, the Frei family designed and fabricated the

stained-glass windows on the balcony level at the Cathedral Basilica. It truly is a sight to see. <https://cathedralstl.org/>

Please let Carol Cobb know by **February 17** if you will be attending, and if you would like to carpool. ccjacob@aol.com

Align with PUC! New Member Sunday

Sunday, February 23 | 10am | New Sanctuary

Our church family is constantly changing. People come and go. Babies are born. Children grow up. People commit themselves to one another. Loved ones and friends among us come to the end of their lives. Individuals move into our community and church life. Others leave us, moving away to new places, new experiences, new opportunities. It is with joy and gratitude that we welcome new members into our worship, work and witness at Parkway UCC - in person or virtually. Membership at Parkway UCC could be the next step in your ongoing relationship with God and with other people of faith - though membership is not expected and certainly isn't necessary to be involved in worship, baptism, communion, weddings, funerals or other aspects of church life. As a church member, you have the opportunity to more intentionally grow personally, find a sense of belonging, form lifelong friendships, experience the joy of Christ, discover your spiritual gifts, become more intimate with God, develop your personal prayer style, expand your boundaries, become more Christ-like and more. With our congregational democratic polity, as a church member, you have a voice and vote within our church to weigh in on topics such as the annual budget, church vision, building decisions and more. If this is something you might be interested in, please let us know by emailing kevin@parkwayucc.org

Love Your Neighbor: 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.

The project, BLESSING BAGS, will contain protein bars, instant coffee packets, water bottles, hand sanitizer, baby wipes, dried fruit, Band-Aids, ChapStick, toothbrush/toothpaste and socks. PUC is contributing 100 pair or adult socks. Please place socks in the marked box in the Gathering Space by **February 23**. Now more than ever, we need community engagement and genuine relationship with our neighbors. More info from kevin@parkwayucc.org

Gospel Roots: A Black History Month Celebration

Sunday, February 23 | 3pm | 11221 Larimore Rd, Spanish Lake, MO 63138

Reserve Your Seats Now for Gospel Roots Black History Month Celebration! "Gospel Roots" is a

powerful Black History Month concert that celebrates the rich cultural heritage, history, and resilience of the Black community through music and song. The concert features uplifting gospel performances by the 60-voice Community Gospel Choir, showcasing both traditional and contemporary gospel music that honors the struggles and triumphs of African Americans throughout history.



"Gospel Roots" not only commemorates Black history, but also celebrates the enduring power of music as a tool for bringing our community together.

This concert at Friendly Temple Church is **free**, but they ask that you **reserve your general admission seats and donate what you can** per seat by scanning the QR code.

Prayer Corner: an opportunity to pray with someone

Tuesday, February 25 | 7-9am | 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**

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

Tuesday Evening Dialogue

February 25 | 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.

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**.

2025 Ramadan Family Iftar Dinners be a guest of a Muslim family to experience a fast-breaking together

As the Holy Month of Ramadan approaches, the Turkish American Society of Missouri (TASOM) warmly invites you to participate in a Home-Based Family Iftar Dinner with a local Muslim host family.

What is Ramadan?

Ramadan, starting this year on **February 28**, is a sacred month for Muslims dedicated to fasting, charity, prayer, and unity. Muslims fast daily from dawn to sunset, and the evening meal, known as "iftar," is a time of joy, reflection, and togetherness. It is also an opportunity to foster interfaith and intercultural understanding.

What is this program about?

This program brings together individuals and families from diverse backgrounds to share an iftar meal with a local Muslim family in the Greater St. Louis Area. Whether you're fasting or not, you are welcome to join and experience this special tradition firsthand.

How to Participate:

Please RSVP by scanning the QR code by **February 14**. After matching you with a host family, we'll share details about your host's address, contact information, and background.



This event is free of charge and open to everyone, regardless of faith.

Join TASOM for an evening of delightful food, meaningful conversation, and new friendships. They look forward to connecting you with a welcoming family in your community!

St. Louis Trivia Night for 100 Neediest Cases

Friday, February 28 | 6-10pm | 12545 Fee Fee Rd St. Louis, MO 63146

Enjoy a night of St. Louis Trivia with fellow PUCers. Tables seat 8 people and folks bring their own snacks to share. Test your knowledge at the 8th Annual St. Louis Post-Dispatch Trivia Night supported by the Soldiers Memorial Military Museum! Post-Dispatch columnist and trivia aficionado Joe Holleman will emcee the night featuring 10 rounds of 8 questions each from St. Louis history to music and everything in between. Attendees can participate in the silent auction, raffles and games which will benefit 100 Neediest Cases. A cash prize will be awarded to the top team and all teams can enjoy snacks and goodies from local St. Louis businesses.

8 PUCers are needed for our table.

Questions? Contact Dan Connors **connorsd@aol.com**
Discounted tickets are \$25. Please register and pay in One Church by scanning QR code.



If you would like assistance with registering, please contact **Gabriel@parkwayucc.org** or call 314-872-9330. If the cost would keep you from participating, please reach out to **kevin@parkwayucc.org**

February Eco Steward Article A brief history of Shannondale UCC

Is it new or unusual for a UCC church to actively promote its environment and community? Apparently not, based on a recent article in Missouri Times, the newsletter of the State Historical Society of Missouri. The article tells the story of Shannondale United Church of Christ in Shannon County over the last 100 years.

The rural Ozark community of Shannondale was primitive in 1929, when Vincent Bucher first went there and assisted that church's pastor. Bucher later became pastor of the church, a few years after its stone sanctuary was built in 1932. At the time there was no electricity or running water for his family and for most area residents.

Rev. Bucher actively worked "to not only minister to the community's spiritual needs, but also to help its members earn a sustainable living." Northern

Shannon County consisted of mostly hills and rocks, “a result of years of clear-cutting timber followed by fires, erosion, and barren patches of land.” Rev. Bucher actively worked to improve the environment, with composting and careful plantings. Also, he, the church, or others in the community (it’s not clear from the article) purchased 4,000 acres of clear-cut timberland, replanted it, and turned it into a sustainable source of income. The Bucher’s left in 1967, but Shannondale UCC still meets weekly in its historic rock church, it remains actively involved in community affairs, “and the forest continues to provide income to those engaged in cooperative work in the Shannon County community,” according to the article.

Gateway ONA Convocation Resistance and Persistence: Hope Reigns

Saturday, March 1 | 9am-3pm | Parkway UCC

Parkway UCC is once again hosting the annual Gateway ONA Convocation. This year it will be held on Saturday, March 1, from 9am-3pm. That’s less than a month away! This event is for church members who are at the very beginning of their Open and Affirm Conversation and for those who have been Open and Affirming for many years. All are welcome. Bring a canned good to share with residents of Doorways Housing.

As part of our extravagant welcome, we are asking for volunteers for this event for setup, takedown, and all times in-between. Please consider volunteering to help us host this event. You can volunteer for the entire day, morning, or afternoon. Please contact Jackie Eiffert to volunteer, jeiffert2@gmail.com.



Scan QR code to register! The deadline is **February 26**.

Tickets are \$25. For more info about the event, contact Greg Schmelig greg_schmelig@hotmail.com

Support St. Louis UCC's Affordable Housing Ministry

A UCC-sponsored online auction to benefit Habitat for Humanity St. Louis is set for March 2025. An AUCction for Humanity will run from **March 1 to March 16**. In addition, Samuel UCC’s traditional St. Patrick’s Dinner will be held on **Saturday, March 15**. Mark your calendar!

You can support an AUCction for Humanity by suggesting volunteers who could: Ask businesses and friends for items; help with administrative tasks you can do from home.

Call or text Bob Steen with suggestions of people who might help at 314-980-7699 or email Bob at AUCction4Humanity@outlook.com

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

Sunday, March 2: ART IN BLOOM @ St. Louis Art Museum
- Carpool from church at 12pm. RSVP to 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

Annual St. Patrick's Dinner to Benefit Habitat for Humanity

Saturday, March 8 | 4-7pm | Samuel UCC 320 N. Forsyth Blvd., Clayton MO
Suggested \$20 donation, children \$6. EVERY CENT you give goes to Habitat for Humanity St. Louis. All meat and other food are either a gift from the Kern Meat Company or others. Corned beef and cabbage, Irish mashed potatoes, soda bread and a homemade dessert buffet like no other. Call the church office for tickets or buy on Sunday mornings. For more info, please contact Tom McKenzie at mckenzie1947@att.net

Annual Chili Cookoff/Brownie Smackdown sponsored by PUC Youth

Sunday, March 16 | 11:15am | Fellowship Hall

LET'S GET READY TO RUMBLE!!!!

It's time for our annual Chili Cookoff/Brownie Smackdown!

The event will be held on **Sunday, March 16**, St. Patrick's Day weekend, following the worship service.

So, wear your green, bring your best chili and/or brownies, and with a wee bit o' luck, you will be the 2025 champion and receive the coveted trophy (ribbon for the brownies) and braggin' rights for the next year!

This is a fundraiser for the youth to raise money for their annual mission projects; so come out, support our youth, and enjoy some fun, fellowship and good-natured competition! Thanks for your support! We'll have sign-up sheets out soon!

For more info, reach out to Amy Yakel da_yakel@att.net

Coffee and Conversation at Panera

Monday, March 24 | 7pm | 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: **Friday, April 25** at 10am; **Tuesday, May 20** at 2pm

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

OUR NEW ORGANIST/PIANIST AMY FREEMAN STARTS TODAY

Our Church Council has approved the recommendation of the Music Search Team to hire **Amy Freeman** as our new organist/pianist. We are very pleased and excited! The team reviewed cover letters and resumes of applicants. They invited some candidates to answer three questions about our particular PUC mission and ministry. The team arranged two face to face interviews: a traditional interview around a table with team members asking all kinds of questions and engaging in thoughtful conversation - the second in the sanctuary as a music skills experience and then back to the table to have more sharing of experiences, ideas and dreams. References were contacted and a thorough background check was done through PUC's insurance company. We put a pause on the search for a choir director at this time as we re-evaluate our Sunday morning music.

Amy is our search team's choice from both a musical and personality standpoint. She is an intelligent and talented artist. Her credentials reflect her

commitment to higher education to improve her musical skills. With a bachelor's degree from Baylor University and a master's degree from the University of Dallas, Amy demonstrates a focus on continuous improvement in musical adaptability and performance enhancement.

One of her references states that she is a kind, lovely, and dedicated person and puts great care into any task she undertakes.

Amy is also a cellist and teaches private piano lessons... she plays the ukelele too!

Amy shared with us that “music, which is one of my life’s greatest joys, helps me maintain my sanity amidst life’s difficulties.”

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 to sing seasonally (Advent/Christmas or Lent/Easter) and/or to sing with a group monthly with the First Sunday Choir at 9am. We’re also gathering names of instrumentalists who’d share their talents in worship, and those interested in joining a hand chime choir. Please reach out to kevin@parkwayucc.org today.

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.

We are happy to help you with anything and everything One Church – including taking your profile photo on a Sunday morning! Just ask!

One Church Wonder Events

Join us with your phone, tablet or laptop as our 1C Team offers support, shortcuts and strategies to make your experience with our software and app more fruitful and enjoyable. All levels of experience with One Church welcome. Upcoming dates after Worship at 11:15am: **February 23; March 23; April 27; May 18; June 22; July 20; August 17.**

Questions? Contact: Cindy - cynthianouri@gmail.com;

Barb - barbharris@charter.net or Gabriel - gabriel@Parkwayucc.org

Prayer List

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

Celebrations

Adelaide Lane & Eleanor Anne born to Callie/Grant Oehler on Feb 5
Kristin & Brandon Edwards, bro Charlie - baby coming this week.

Concerns

Peggy/Jack Sieber & family as they grieve grandson Ryan Bruce Sieber; Visitation this Sunday from 12-4pm at Lupton with a service at 4pm.

Cassie & Christa Rosenberger - grieving/celebrating their mother.

Family/Friends of Pat Klein - mourning and sharing gratitude... we'll host a Celebration of Life on Saturday, March 8 at 11am here at PUC.

<https://stlouiscremation.com/obituaries/patricia-klein/>

Our trans siblings as they deal with harmful state/federal policy plans.

The continuing war in Ukraine and Russia.

Continuing

Marv Herpel - strengthening/healing of broken leg; back at *Brookdale*.

Kathleen Tarr - healing after recent foot surgery.

Keith Borgmann - healing at home after recent hospitalization.

Randy & Karla Beck - his healing after surgery; rehab ctr near home.

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

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

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

Rick - receiving chemotherapy (father of Laura Waite).

Twila Spencer - transitioning to assisted living (Mike Rogers' mother).

Harold Webb - lingering complications after brain surgery (Grove).

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).

Haack's general practitioner and his wife - healing happening.

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).

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]

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]

Other

Pres Trump, VP Vance, Congress, all local, national, world leaders.

The “me too” Movement - shining a light on sexual abuse.

All people who live with mental illness & those dealing with meds.

Caregivers of all shapes and sizes.

PUCC Family struggling with employment; healthcare costs and limits.

Our Missouri Mid-South Conference and St Louis Assn UCC

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

Conversations about the Death Penalty in the United States.

Victims of Natural and Created Disasters around the world.

Healing of relationships between the public and the police.

Peace and Justice near and far.

US Military around the globe.

+ **Drivers Needed** From time to time, 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!

LAST WEEK in Sunday School

Jesus continues his radical work by reaching out to a Gentile and a widow, healing one who are sick and raising a man from the dead, offering life to people on the outskirts of society (Luke 7:1-17).

TODAY in Sunday School

John the Baptist sends his disciples to Jesus asking the question on everyone's mind: are you the Messiah? Jesus points to his miracles and then tells the crowd that John was a prophet (Luke 7:18-35).

THE POINT

Jesus is the Messiah, who proclaims God's kingdom as John did.

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

What do miracle stories teach us about Jesus? The miracle stories can be divided into three groups. Healing stories where Jesus heals a person who has been experiencing a severe illness or physical disability—even death. Exorcisms involve a personified evil, such as a demon. Natural miracles are events when Jesus exerts power over nature, such as calming the sea or multiplying loaves and fish. These miracles tell us about Jesus' love for those in need, his power over the forces of sin and evil, and his command over nature.

STORY SUMMARY

Having heard about Jesus' activities from his own followers, John the Baptist sends messengers to Jesus to ask him if he is indeed the Messiah they are waiting for. When they were with Jesus, John's messengers witnessed Jesus heal many people and cast out demons. Jesus was not what people were expecting the Messiah to be like. Instead of a mighty king ready for battle, the Messiah was a humble man concerned with the most marginalized people in society. Jesus also teaches the crowd that John was a great prophet, the forerunner of the Messiah.

PRACTICE: Prayer

At its heart, prayer is simply expressing yourself to God, and being open to hear God's expression to you. Some people express themselves best not with spoken words, but through writing. This week, practice writing your prayers out. A prayer journal can help you keep track of how God is working in your life and how you are growing in faith.

NEXT WEEK in Sunday School

While Jesus was visiting a Pharisee, a woman who was called "sinful" by others wept at Jesus' feet and anointed them with expensive oil. Jesus give her mercy and forgiveness. (Luke 7:36-50).