

Traveling with **JESUS**



 **PARKWAY**
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



www.parkwayucc.org

March 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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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.

Worship Serving Today

Scripture Reader is Evelyn Buretta.

Flowers given by John & Joyce Ruiz in celebration of John's birthday.

Treats after worship provided by Cindy Nouri.

If you would like to volunteer for any of these serving opportunities or join the corresponding 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

3/16 Avery Delannay

3/16 Christopher Haack

3/17 Karen Mariani

3/18 Patrick Clifford

3/19 John Ruiz

3/20 Armie Milam

Anniversaries

3/17 Susan & Nick McMillon

2nd Sunday in Lent: The House of God

Sunday, March 16, 2025 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & YouTube Live

Prelude *Jesus, The Very Thought of Thee* by Dr. Joyce Jones

Welcome Let us know you are here!

Meditation Leave your light on so that if anyone loses their way, they can find you and be led back to community and God's love. ~unknown

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 *You Are Welcome Here*

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: 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.

Scripture Psalm 27 | Inclusive Language Psalter

God is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

God is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?

When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell.

Though an army should encamp against me, yet my heart shall not be afraid;

And though war should rise up against me, yet will I put my trust in God.

One thing have I asked of God; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of God all the days of my life; to behold the fair beauty of God and to seek God in God's temple.

For in the day of trouble God shall keep me safe in their shelter;
God shall hide me in the secrecy of their dwelling and set me high upon a
rock.

Even now God lifts up my head above my enemies round about me.
Therefore, I will offer in this dwelling an oblation with sounds of great
gladness; I will sing and make music to God.

Hearken to my voice, O God, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.
You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." Your face, God, will I seek.
Hide not your face from me, nor turn away your servant in displeasure.
You have been my helper; cast me not away; do not forsake me, O God of my
salvation. Though my parents forsake me, God will sustain me. Show me your
way, O God; lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.

Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen
up against me, and also those who speak malice.

What if I had not believed that I should see the goodness of God in the land of
the living!

O tarry and await God's pleasure; be strong, and God shall comfort your heart;
wait patiently for God.

***Call to Worship** Elizabeth Dilley

One:	God is our Gracious Light-Bearer.
Many:	Into the shadows of our isolation, God speaks words of life and community.
One:	Jesus challenges our lives, calling us from places we call home - to lead us more deeply into the world he loves.
Many:	With Jesus' gentle, healing touch, we are delivered from the broken places of our lives - and the wounded places of the earth.
One:	Inspire our worship here now, Holy Spirit - that we may receive liberation in God's word and ways.
Many:	That we may be filled to overflow as God helps reconcile us - and leads us back to one another in love throughout the earth.
All:	Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.

***Song** *The God of Abraham Praise* | #488 Red Hymnal



1. The God of A-braham praise, Who reigns en-throned a - bove;
2. Your spir - it still flows free, High surg - ing where it will;
3. You have e - ter - nal life Im - plant - ed in the soul;



The an - cient of e - ter - nal days, The God of love!
In proph-et's word You spoke of old And You speak still.
Your love shall be our strength and stay, While a - ges roll.



The Lord, the great I Am, By earth and heaven con - fessed,
Es - tab - lished is Your law, And change-less it shall stand,
We praise You, liv - ing God! We praise Your ho - ly name;



We bow be - fore Your ho - ly name, For - ev - er blest.
Deep writ up - on the hu - man heart, On sea, or land.
The first, the last, be - yond all thought, And still the same!

Lenten Candles: Traveling with Jesus

We lit seven candles as we embarked on this Lenten journey. We want the light of the Holy to illumine our path as we seek to be the words and ways of Jesus. We commit to being more infused by the Spirit as we travel. Even as we know this is good and important work, we recognize that it isn't easy—and we will come upon the shadow side of humanity and some of our own unique darkness.

We extinguish one candle each time we gather for worship this season, acknowledging that this can be tough and exhausting work. As we approach the desertion and depletion of Good Friday, we also prepare ourselves for the dawn and love of Easter morning... the light that never goes out.

Prayer at the Candles

Holy One, we travel this Lenten journey, knowing that you are with us every step of the way, wherever we find ourselves – whether at home or out in the world. We make this journey to be with Jesus and to become more like him. Send the light of Your Spirit to illumine our path and to help us along the way. Remind us that no matter where we are, we are at home in you and you have a home in us. Amen.

*Response *The Servant Song*, v 2 and 4



1 & 6 Won't you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as Christ to you?
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - elers on the road;
3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the shad - ow of your fear;
4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
5 When we sing to God in heav - en we shall find such har - mo - ny,



Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser - vant, too.
We are here to help each oth - er go the mile and bear the load.
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
I will share your joy and sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.
Born of all we've known to - geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.

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 09, 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.

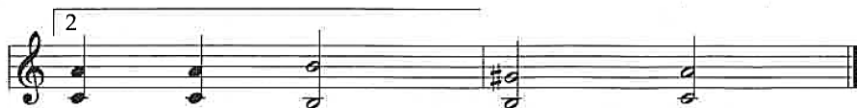
Blessing the Children *Nothing Can Trouble (Nada Te Turbe)* | #2054 [Blue Songbook](#)



Noth - ing can trou - ble, noth - ing can fright - en.
Na - da te tur - be, na - da te es - pan - te.



Those who seek God shall nev - er go want - ing.
Quien a Dios tie - ne na - da le fal - ta.



God a - lone fills us.
So - lo Dios bas - ta.

Scripture Luke 15:3, 11b-32 | Common English Bible (CEB)

Jesus told them this parable: “A certain man had two sons. The younger son said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the inheritance.’ Then the father divided his estate between them. Soon afterward, the younger son gathered everything together and took a trip to a land far away. There, he wasted his wealth through extravagant living.

“When he had used up his resources, a severe food shortage arose in that country, and he began to be in need. He hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. He longed to eat his fill from what the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything. When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have more than enough food, but I’m starving to death! I will get up and go to my father, and say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son. Take me on as one of your hired hands.”’ So, he got up and went to his father.

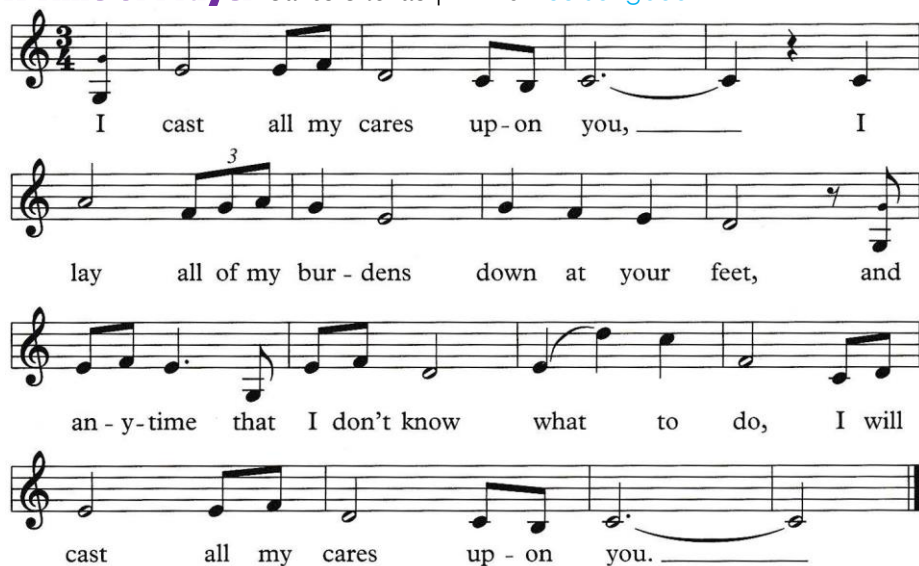
“While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion. His father ran to him, hugged him, and kissed him. Then his son said, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Quickly, bring out the best robe and put it on him! Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet! Fetch the fattened calf and slaughter it. We must celebrate with feasting because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life! He was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his older son was in the field. Coming in from the field, he approached the house and heard music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what was going on. The servant replied, ‘Your brother has arrived, and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he received his son back safe and sound.’ Then the older son was furious and didn’t want to enter in, but his father came out and begged him. He answered his father, ‘Look, I’ve served you all these years, and I never disobeyed your instruction. Yet you’ve never given me as much as a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours returned, after gobbling up your estate on prostitutes, you slaughtered the fattened calf for him.’ Then his father said, ‘Son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad because this brother of yours was dead and is alive. He was lost and is found.’”

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon

A Time of Prayer *Cares Chorus* | #2215 *Blue Songbook*



I cast all my cares up-on you, I
lay all of my bur-dens down at your feet, and
an-y-time that I don't know what to do, I will
cast all my cares up-on 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.]

Mission Moment ^{2nd} Mile Lent/Easter

Darlene Sowell

Heifer Int'l | Lydia's House | **Unleashing Potential** | Bread for the World

Offering Our Gifts to God




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

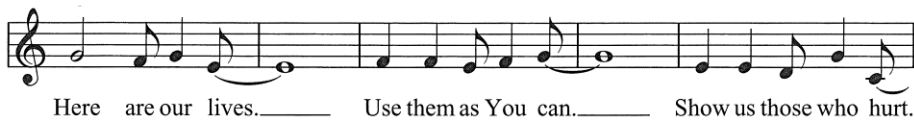
www.parkwayucc.org/giving

Offering Interlude *And They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love*

***Response** *Here Are Our Hearts*



Here are our hearts._____ Here are our hands._____



Here are our lives._____ Use them as You can._____ Show us those who hurt.



_____ Show us those in need._____ Show us how to serve.



_____ Teach us how to see._____

***Prayer of Dedication** Ruth Garwood

Hoy One, we are grateful for what we have received, and for the joy of giving and sharing. We offer our gifts to your work withing and through this church. Use our offerings and our lives. Bless them and multiply them for your purposes in the world. Amen.

***Song of Parting** *Lead On, O King Eternal* | #447 **Red Hymnal**



1. Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, The day of march has come;
2. Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, Till sin's fierce war shall cease,
3. Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: We fol - low, not with fears;



Hence - forth in fields of con - quest Thy tents shall be our home:
And ho - li - ness shall whis - per The sweet a - men of peace;
For glad - ness breaks like morn - ing Wher - e'er Thy face ap - pears;



Through days of prep - a - ra - tion Thy grace has made us strong,
For not with swords' loud clash - ing, Nor roll of stir - ring drums;
Thy cross is lift - ed o'er us; We jour - ney in its light:



And now, O King e - ter - nal, We lift our bat - tle song.
With deeds of love and mer - cy The heav - en - ly king - dom comes.
The crown a - waits the con - quest; Lead on, O God of might.

***Benediction**

***God's Light Goes Forth**

***Music for Going Forth** *Minuet in G* by J.S. Bach

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. Our YouTube Channel is [@parkwayuccsfl](#). 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

Annual Chili Cookoff/Brownie Smackdown sponsored by PUC Youth
TODAY!! | 11:15am | Fellowship Hall

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. Asking price for tickets will be \$5. Children ages 10 and under are free. Please pre-cut your brownies and list any allergens in your chili or brownie recipes, along with what kind of chili it is.

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!

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

Spring Friendship Dinners

Spring is right around the corner, and so are Friendship Dinners. A Sign-up sheet is in The Gathering Space where you can volunteer to host or be a guest. You can also email Cindy Wessel at cindywessel@yahoo.com. Hosts can also sign up to be a guest at another dinner.

We ask the host volunteers to indicate how many guests they will invite. The Friendship Dinner team will organize the dinners by **March 23**, considering where people live.

Then, the host will call the guests on the date suggested. The host provides the main dishes, and guests bring a side dish or dessert. The host can also decide to host a Dutch dinner at a local restaurant. Questions? Contact Cindy Wessel cindywessel@yahoo.com.

Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue – March 18

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 us for our book discussion of *Peace Like a River* by Leif Enger. It's the story of an 11-year-old boy, Reuben Land, his unusual family, and their journey across the frozen Badlands of the Dakotas in search of Reuben's fugitive older brother. Themes in the novel include faith, miracles, and family. We'll discuss this book on March 18. Join in on Zoom at 1:45 pm for fellowship, or 2pm-3pm for book discussion. Newcomers are welcome! Please contact Jackie Eiffert, jeiffert2@gmail.com with questions.

2025 Lent Devotional Small Group Into the Deep

Sundays during Lent, March 23 | 9-9:30am | Heritage Room

Mirroring the 2025 General Synod theme, "Into the Deep," our 2025 Lent Devotional invites reflection on God's mysterious depths.

We are hosting a Lent devotional discussion in the Heritage Room on Sundays at 9am. Please come! Childcare will be provided.

If you'd like a PDF copy, or for more info, contact Gabriel gabriel@parkwayucc.org.

Speaker Series Occasional opportunities after worship at 11:15am "Heart to Heart, What's New in Cardiology," by Cynde Brunner, NP

March 23 | 11:15am | Heritage Room

Cardiology is essential to understanding the functioning of the heart, the vital organ that pumps blood throughout the body, supplying oxygen and nutrients to tissues. Cardiovascular disease is one of the leading causes of death worldwide. Prevention, early detection and effective treatment of these diseases are crucial to improving quality of life and reducing mortality rates. New cardiac therapies are constantly evolving, offering hope to patients suffering from cardiovascular disease.

Recent advances in cardiology have had a significant impact on the treatment of heart disease. Patients now benefit from more precise diagnoses and personalized treatments based on their genetics and individual response to medication. This has led to more targeted and effective medicine, reducing side effects and improving long-term outcomes. Here to help us to better understand recent advances in cardiology is Cynde Brunner, a Nurse Practitioner specializing in cardiology at St. Luke's Hospital, one of the leading cardiology hospitals in the country. She is certified by the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

Childcare will be provided. For questions, kindly contact Richard Scherrer at 90fivetpr@gmail.com

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

Tuesday Evening Dialogue

March 25 | 6-8pm | Heritage Room

Zoom Meeting ID: 849 4403 9731; Passcode: 792617

Please join us as we read and discuss our book selection for Lent entitled *Reading the Psalms Again for the First Time* by the Rev. Dr. Clint McCann from Eden Seminary. It promises to be an interesting study of how the Psalms encourage and inspire action within ourselves to work towards justice and peace.

Bring a dish to share for the potluck & join us for our next conversation!

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.

Adventurers at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis

Thursday, March 27 | 10am-2pm | 4431 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108

You are invited to join with the PUC C Adventurers for a one-hour guided tour of the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis. The fee is \$4, payable at the door. Lunch will follow at The Foundry.

If you'd like to carpool, please meet at Parkway UCC by 9:30am. Please let Jackie Eiffert know by March 24 if you will be attending, and if you would like to carpool at jeiffert2@gmail.com.

The Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, also known as the "Rome of the West," is a stunning architectural masterpiece featuring impressive vaults and radiant mosaics. Completed in 1914, it showcases the work of over a dozen architects and artisans, creating a harmonious and awe-inspiring structure. The Frei family designed and crafted the stained glass windows on the balcony level, adding to the cathedral's beauty. It is truly a remarkable sight.

Encourage a Special Olympian! Basketball Tournament

Saturday, March 29 | 12-5pm | Lindenwood University, St Charles

Bring your enthusiastic spirit as we volunteer with Special Olympics Missouri at their Basketball Tournament. We will be assigned duties upon arrival --

keeping score, cheering, making sure teams are on the correct court, giving medals? If you haven't been a part of the Special Olympics previously, you are in for a wonderful and heartfelt experience. If you have done this in the past with us, you know how impactful and inspiring this will be!

We are looking for 5 additional PUC Cers to be part of this adventure. (This would be a great event for a parent and child of school age.) Please RSVP by **March 23** by scanning QR code or emailing kevin@parkwayucc.org.



Meditation Garden Youth Project

Sunday, March 30 | 10am | Garden Area behind New Church

PUC C is doing a new thing! During the March *Jesus Has Left the Building* service, youth and volunteers can help clean up and create a Meditation Garden behind the church. Tasks include removing weeds, leveling the ground, placing a weed barrier, spreading mulch, and edging with bricks. Volunteers should wear clothes they don't mind getting dirty and can bring their own garden tools if they'd like. Anyone with a truck is needed to help pick up mulch before Sunday. If you're able to help with that, please contact Gabriel Requadt gabriel@parkwayucc.org. If we all work together, the hope would be to finish it that day. All are welcome!

If you have any cardboard boxes, newspaper or paper bags, please drop them off in the Church Office when Gabriel is here during the week or Sundays before or after worship. We'll plan to use them as the weed barrier for the Meditation Garden!

March Eco Steward Article Single use plastic water bottles facts and concerns

Plastic water bottle pollution is a significant issue affecting personal health, the environment, and climate change. These bottles contribute to ocean pollution, threatening marine life, and may leach harmful chemicals that disrupt hormones or release carbon dioxide. While convenient, plastic water bottles cause serious environmental harm.

Low Recycling Rate

Only one out of four plastic water bottles that are bought are recycled. This means that 75% of the water bottles that are purchased are just thrown out in the garbage, and are taking up space in our landfills, which are filling up quickly.

Plastic Pollutes our Oceans & Beaches

Each year, about one-tenth of all plastic produced ends up in the oceans, with plastic water bottles being a significant contributor. These bottles often wash up on beaches or settle on the ocean floor, creating serious environmental issues. The plastics harm local ecosystems and pose a threat to sea life and wildlife that ingest them.

“Not so” Fun facts about single use plastic bottle water include:

- A single-use plastic bottle takes around 450 years to decompose.
- Only 29% of plastic water bottles in the U.S. are recycled.
- Single-use plastic bottles are the third-largest ocean trash item.
- Americans buy nearly 15 billion gallons of bottled water per year.
- If just one person moves to using a reusable water bottle, approximately 217 plastic water bottles will be saved from going to a landfill that year.

Community Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 12 | 9:30am | Parkway UCC

Parkway UCC's Annual Easter Egg Hunt is around the corner! The event will begin with craft making at 9:30am, with the Easter egg hunt starting at 10am. There will be refreshments and pictures with the Easter Bunny!

We are also looking for plenty of volunteers for set-up and tear-down, as well as for donuts/coffee. We would appreciate donations of individually wrapped Easter candy as we prepare for the Community Easter Egg Hunt. Please drop in marked Easter Pail in the Gathering Space. Thank you very much!



Interested in volunteering? Scan the QR code!

For more info, contact Karen Mariani at ksmariani59@gmail.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

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

Question? Contact Carmen Bumgarner at cfbum@charter.net

Prayer Corner: an opportunity to pray with someone

Wednesday, April 16 | 10am-12pm | 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, May 12** from 6-8pm

OUR MUSIC MINISTRY

As we begin this next chapter with Amy Freeman as your organist/pianist, we're seeking people to be a part of our music program. We're looking for individuals willing to sing a solo, duet, trio or to sing with a group seasonally (Advent/Christmas or Lent/Easter) and/or to sing with the First Sunday Choir each first Sunday of the month 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 **amy@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!

Most Sundays there is someone well-versed in One Church standing over by the large bulletin board in the Gathering Space. Please let them know if you have any questions or need assistance.

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

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

Prayer List

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Celebrations

The Lenten Journey: *Traveling with Jesus.*

Concerns

Family/Friends of Gale Haggard as they remember and cherish him. Visitation and Memorial Service plans are being formulated by family.

Bill Hilgeman - recuperating after emergency surgery.

Lori Connors - healing of a broken shoulder blade.

Jan McAllister seeking equilibrium after recent hospitalization.

John Dwyer - strengthening after recent hospitalization.

Lana and Joe Biondo - healing from her knee replacement on 02/25.

Alfred - a very good dog waiting to be adopted - APA Brentwood (Levin)

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

All who depend on USAID programs that have been eliminated.

The continuing war with Ukraine and Russia.

Continuing

Family/friends of Marv Herpel, Ryan Sieber, Pat Klein - grieving

Kathleen Tarr - healing after recent foot surgery - some complications.

Keith Borgmann - continuing to gain strength after illness.

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

Carole Gwyn - ongoing health issues (David's mother).

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).

Pamela Burcham - receiving hospice care (Stan's sister).

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).

Ruth Hughes - Dec discharge from hospice; tests/PT now (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]

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, PUCCers 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 tells the Parable of the Good Samaritan, in which a person cares for his enemy. Then, Jesus visits sisters Mary and Martha and encourages Martha to rest from her work and listen to him (Luke 10:25-42).

TODAY In Sunday School

Jesus tells people that bad things do not happen because of people's sins, but he calls the people to change their ways. Then, he tells some Pharisees that he is going to Jerusalem be killed (Luke 13:1-9, 31-35).

THE POINT

Suffering is not always caused by our sin, but everyone should repent.

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

Bible passages can be difficult to understand and, in some cases, difficult to accept. The first step to understanding a Bible passage is to pray and ask for God's help. After seeking God, it is helpful to work through difficult passages with an understanding of historical context. Sometimes, things were acceptable in the biblical context that are no longer acceptable today, and other things were simply understood differently. Finally, one can use the central message of Scripture—God's love and forgiveness—as a way to interpret other passages. At the core of the entire Bible is God's deep love for God's people.

STORY SUMMARY

Jesus gives us three ways to understand how much he is offering us and how much we need him. The tragedies that Jesus mentions—Pilate's murders during worship, a building collapse, and a frustrated farmer—all speak to our tendency to look for blame when bad things happen. Jesus teaches us that tragedies are not God's punishment for our sins. But any reminder of our sins should lead us to repentance, which means we change our thinking patterns and turn our life in a new direction—toward God.

PRACTICE: Service

Repentance is more than feeling sorry for your sins. It involves commitment and action, turning from your own path to God's path. And God's path includes loving service toward other people. Practice finding the good that comes out of tragedy. Do a web search for positive stories after a disaster. Think of your own examples and give thanks for people who do good in troubling times.

NEXT WEEK In Sunday School

Jesus tells parables about a lost sheep, a lost coin, and a lost son. God never stops seeking people who feel lost or have wandered from God's way. When someone returns, all the angels celebrate (Luke 15:1-32).

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 13:1-9, 31-35

Jesus wants us to trust God in the middle of tragedy. What are some ways you can turn around to live a better life?

MONDAY: Luke 13:10-17

When we do God's work, and when we say thanks to God, it is the Lord's day. Who can you be thankful for this week?

TUESDAY: Luke 13:18-30

We are never too small to do God's work, and there is no task that is impossible with the help of God. Imagine helping someone feel the love of God. How will you accomplish that?

WEDNESDAY: Luke 14:1-6

Jesus did not wait for just the right time or just the right words. He called on God for assistance and preached, taught, and healed. Where do you serve God in your everyday life outside of church?

THURSDAY: Luke 14:7-14

Jesus challenges the normal way of doing things by asking his followers to break some rules. What are some ways to help those who do not fit in find a place in your worship space?

FRIDAY: Luke 14:15-24

Jesus knows that not everyone will want to be part of what he calls the great banquet. Who would you invite to God's banquet to help them see God's love?

SATURDAY: Luke 14:25-33

It is not supposed to always be easy to follow Jesus. If we avoid the tough times, we are missing out on the depth of God's love. How can we prepare ourselves for difficult times so that we depend on God to get us through?