





www.parkwayucc.org

March 23, 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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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 Burette.

**Flowers** given by Nick & Sue McMillon in honor of their 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary on St. Patrick's Day.

**Treats after worship** provided by Kari Borgmann.

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](http://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](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>

## Birthdays

3/26 Brad Brueggemann  
3/27 Doug Detjen  
3/28 Nate Goldstein  
3/29 Margaret Philip

## Anniversaries

3/26 Deb & Greg Carter  
3/29 Donna & Roger Fauss

Cover art by Gabe Wiseman. This morning, we debut a new banner created from secondhand textiles by Karla Beck and Johanna Beck. It is entitled 'We will hold the Christ light for you in the shadow of your fear' – a line from *The Servant Song*.

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent: Vineyard

Sunday, March 23, 2025 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & YouTube Live

**Prelude** *Nada de Turbe*

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

**Meditation** The beginning of love is to let those we love be perfectly themselves, and not to twist them to fit our own image. Otherwise, we love only the reflection of ourselves we find in them. - Thomas Merton

**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** *Sanctuary*



Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - ar - y, pure and  
Lord, pre - pare me to be your lov - ing e - cho, kind and  
ho - ly, tried and true. With thanks - giv - ing, I'll be a  
gen - tle, tried and true. With thanks - giv - ing, I'll be a  
liv - ing sanc - tu - ar - y for you.  
liv - ing sanc - tu - ar - y for you.

**Psalter Lessons Scripture**

**Psalms 31** | New Revised Standard Version

In you, O Lord, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me.

Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.

You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me, take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge. Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.

You hate those who pay regard to worthless idols, but I trust in the Lord.

I will exult and rejoice in your steadfast love, because you have seen my affliction; you have taken heed of my adversities and have not delivered me into the hand of the enemy; you have set my feet in a broad place.

**Psalm 63:1-8** | New Revised Standard Version

O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

So, I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

So, I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips when I think of you on my bed and meditate on you in the watches of the night; for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy. My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

**\*Call to Worship** *We Are Part of the Church Universal* by Ann Day, UCC

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| One:         | We are part of the Church universal – faithful people of every color, gender, class, sexual orientation, age, and ability, gathered to love and serve God. |
| <b>Many:</b> | <b>We are an Open and Affirming church!</b>  |
| One:         | Together, let us worship God, rejoicing in the good news which we celebrate this day!  |
| <b>Many:</b> | <b>There is a place in God’s heart, there is a place at Christ’s table, there is a place here and in every welcoming church for all people -</b>           |
| One:         | Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning and Straight!   |
| <b>Many:</b> | <b>Christ who gathers us, bids us follow in the ways of love and justice.</b>  |
| One:         | May our hearts be open to Christ’s leading in our worship and our living, this day and always.   |
| <b>Many:</b> | <b>The Holy Spirit comes to equip us, lead us and love us along the way.</b>   |
| <b>All:</b>  | <b>Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.</b>   |

### **\*Song** *Guide Us to Openness*

(Tune: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness #276 **Red Hymnal**)

Words by The Rev. W. Robert Martin, III

Guide us to openness, Spirit of mercy,  
Aid us in seeking God's justice and grace.  
Move us to show Christ's compassion through witness,  
Love first to offer and hate to erase.

Guide us to openness! Guide us to openness!  
Let no one ever be shunned or denied.  
Make of the Church a bold place of compassion,  
That all who seek You may come and abide.

Spirit of tenderness, impart Your presence,  
Fill both our hearts and our hands with Your care.  
Let no one suffer or grieve unattended,  
Grant us Your kindness and warmth here to share.

Guide us to openness! Guide us to openness!  
Let no one ever be shunned or denied.  
Make of the Church a bold place of compassion,  
That all who seek You may come and abide.

Though there are those who would limit Christ's graces,  
Still we refuse to believe in such lies,  
For in this time we have made a commitment  
Never to limit love's power or size.

Guide us to openness! Guide us to openness!  
Let no one ever be shunned or denied.  
Make of the Church a bold place of compassion,  
That all who seek You may come and abide.

### **\*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 in the wilderness, at home or out in the vineyard. 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. Amen.**

## \*Response *The Servant Song*, v 2-3



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 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 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.

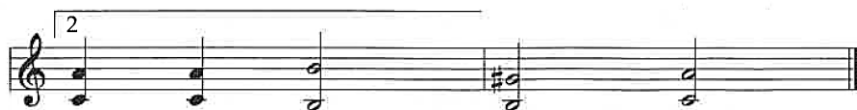
## **Blessing the Children** *Nothing Can Trouble (Nada te Turbe)* | #2054 *Blue Songbook*



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 13:6-9

Then Jesus told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still, I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

## Moment of Silence

## Reflections

## A Time of Prayer *Be Still and Know That I Am God* | #2057 *Blue Songbook*

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the prayer "Be Still and Know That I Am God". The first staff is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody starts with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. A circled number 1 is above the first measure, and a circled number 2 is above the second measure. The lyrics "Be still and know that I am God." are written below the staff. The second staff continues the melody with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The lyrics "Be still and know that I am God." are written below the staff.

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Mile Lent/Easter

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

## Offering Our Gifts to God



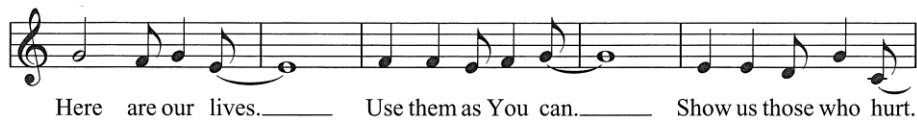
If you have an offering today, please place it in the plate on the stand next to the communion table before the end of the closing hymn. There are offering plates in the Gathering Space outside the sanctuary too. Thank you for your generosity.

[www.parkwayucc.org/giving](http://www.parkwayucc.org/giving)

## Offering Interlude *Be Still And Know*



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



**\*Prayer of Dedication** Trans-Nonbinary-Centered Worship Resources

**Holy One, we dedicate our offerings and ourselves to becoming better versions of your disciples. We seek the wisdom of radical resistance and commit to rising up and refusing that which does not serve justice. We give ourselves to the art of revolutionary hospitality and promise to build a world where belovedness is everyone's birthright. Amen.**

**\*Song of Parting** *You Made Us In Your Image*

(Tune: *The Church's One Foundation* #442 **Red Hymnal**)

You made us in your image, O God of love and grace;  
You treasure every person in every time and place.  
You call your world to follow — to see in every one  
A person loved and cherished, all living under sun.

Your will is for your people to live in safety here,  
With dignity and justice, and free from want or fear.  
In families and nations, may all know freedom's song;  
May all enjoy the blessing to choose where they belong.

You warn against enslavement and things that would oppress.  
You call for living wages, for times of welcome rest.  
You call for education for all — not just a few;  
You teach us: Welcome strangers, for so we welcome you.

You made us to be equal; you made us to be free —  
To speak the truth with courage, to change society,  
To follow our own conscience, to choose the words we pray.  
O God, may all your children enjoy these gifts each day.

**\*Benediction**

**\*God's Light Goes Forth**

**\*Music for Going Forth** *Sonatina 1* by Clementi

## **Next Sunday, March 30, is a Fifth Sunday of the Month!**

We will have a *Jesus Has Left the Building* morning.

Worship will begin at 10am in our usual fashion.

The service will be brief and then you will be invited to put your faith into action here and outside the church walls.

Look for a detailed email early in the week so you can ponder the possibilities and make your choices.

## **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**

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

## New Nursery Sunday Hours

**Exciting News for Families!** We are thrilled to announce a new way to support our wonderful families and parents of young ones! To help you feel more included in the many opportunities on Sunday mornings, our **Nursery will now be open before worship from 9:00–10:00am and after worship from 11:15am–12:15pm** for infants and kids through 5th grade. Whether you're singing in the choir, attending our inspiring Speaker Series, or simply connecting with our community, we want you to know that **you belong here**—and we're here to support you! We hope this small change makes a big difference in your Sunday experience. We can't wait to see you!

For more info, please contact Gabriel Requadt at [gabriel@parkwayucc.org](mailto: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 children through 5<sup>th</sup> grade in the Nursery.

For questions, kindly contact Richard Scherrer at [90fivetpr@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 PUCC 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](mailto: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 2 additional PUCCers 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](mailto:kevin@parkwayucc.org).



## **2025 Lent Devotional Small Group Into the Deep**

Sundays during Lent, March 30 | 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 for children through 5<sup>th</sup> grade in the Nursery.

If you'd like a PDF copy, or for more info, contact Gabriel [gabriel@parkwayucc.org](mailto:gabriel@parkwayucc.org).

## **Meditation Garden Youth Project**

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

PUCC 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](mailto:gabriel@parkwayucc.org). If we all work together, the hope would be to finish it that day. All are welcome!

## **Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue – April 1**

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 on April 1st and 15th for our Lenten study, *The Poetry of Lent: A Lenten Companion to Mary Oliver's poetry book, Devotions*. The words of scripture and the poetry of Mary Oliver will be our guides. Biblical texts and Oliver's poems illumine each other, pointing toward simple, powerful practices you can try yourself, or with your family or friends. Join in on Zoom at 1:45 pm for fellowship, or 2 pm - 3 pm for book discussion. Newcomers are welcome! Please contact Jackie Eiffert, [jeiffert2@gmail.com](mailto:jeiffert2@gmail.com) with questions

## **Will and Harper**

Sunday, April 6 | 6pm | Heritage Room

There will be a showing of the documentary, "Will & Harper," followed by a discussion. The film chronicles a road trip between good friends, actor Will Ferrell and writer Harper Steele, who came out as trans three years ago. The trip was an opportunity for Steele to be reintroduced to her country as a trans woman. This film is powerful, humorous, and impactful.

Join us as we immerse ourselves in this road trip and discuss our reactions and the inspiration found here. Bring a snack to share.

[YES! We will have the PUCC popcorn machine popping!]

Questions? Contact Debbie Reinhardt, convener of our ONA Team\* -

[deborahreinhardt@att.net](mailto:deborahreinhardt@att.net).

\* Other members of our ONA team are Sally Dodge, Andy Impastato, Kris Impastato, Pam Walker and Kevin Cameron.

## 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](mailto:ksmariani59@gmail.com)

## Adventurous Women Out Late 2025

Come build relationships with other PUCCers 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. Scan the QR to register.



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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:amy@parkwayucc.org) today.

# Prayer List

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

## Celebrations

**The Lenten Journey:** *Traveling with Jesus.*

## Concerns

**Family/Friends of Gale Haggard** as they remember and cherish him.

Visitation 1-3pm, Memorial Service 3pm here on Saturday, March 22.

<https://kutisfuneralhomes.com/haggard-wallace-gale/>

**Phil and Laura Waite and boys** as they grieve/give thanks for his mother... Visitation Thursday 5-7pm; Funeral 10am on Friday in Jacksonville, Illinois. <https://www.airsmen-hires.com/obituaries/Catherine-L-Burton?obId=39246246>

**Stan and Kathy Burcham** - as his sister Pamela died Sunday morning.

**Jack and Peggy Sieber** - healing of his hip fracture; now in rehab.

**Randy and Karla Beck** - his broken leg; awaiting surgery.

**Bill and Gail Haack** - healing after his fall and trip to the ER.

**John Dwyer, Bill Hilgeman, Jan McAllister** - recent hospital stays.

**Lori Connors** - healing of a broken shoulder blade.

**Lana and Joe Biondo** - healing from her recent knee replacement.

**Warren, Mary and Marcus Marchessault** - grieving Warren's mom.

**Melodi and family** - at the tragic death of her son (Tarr).

**Bob** - recuperating in ICU after multiple surgeries (Tarr).

**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 - making progress.

**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).

**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** - recent discharge from hospice; 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.

## 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]

**Gladys 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.

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

**All who depend on USAID programs** that have been eliminated.

**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!



## **Went on His Way**

Quinn G. Caldwell

*They got up, drove [Jesus] out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way. - Luke 4:29-30 (NRSV)*

Went on his way? Went on his way?!? Is that truly all Luke has to say about the aftermath of an attempted murder, and no doubt a beating, too?

It says Jesus went on his way, like it was no big deal. But maybe he went on his way just looking like it was no big deal. Sometimes that's the only way to survive the trauma, you know? Maybe he held his shredded dignity closed with one hand, forced his face into impassivity or hauteur, marshalled all his energy to keep his gait even and the tremble out of his legs until he was out of sight. Maybe he refused to let them see him cry. Maybe he joked about it to his disciples through split lips.

Then what? You can keep on keeping on for a while, but it's going to catch up to you eventually. Did the adrenaline hangover shake its way through his body and out through his eyes, or maybe his mouth? Did he curl up in a ball and go catatonic? Did a disciple approach him gingerly and say, "Hey man, that was brutal. How you doing? Want to talk about it?" Did he fall on his knees and rage at God?

He went on his way. We all do, afterward; it's the only choice the living have. I just hope he eventually found some time, and some people, for healing.

### ***Prayer***

Help us to do what we need to do to survive, God. Help us to do what we need to do to thrive, too. Amen.

### **LAST WEEK 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).

### **TODAY 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).

### **THE POINT**

**God celebrates when the lost are found and those who were dead find life.**

### **BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS**

Parables are more than just stories with a moral or some kind of fairy tale we might remember from our childhood. Parables help us understand the truth about ourselves and the world using familiar images, exaggeration, plot twists, and symbolism. Jesus had to give his disciples private explanations before they understood these stories. We can seek help to understand the meaning of parables.

### **PRACTICE: Service**

We are reminded that God celebrates when those who are lost are found or those who were abandoned are helped. As a family, take some time to look up youth services in your community. For every organization you found, find a list of the things they need from volunteers. Choose an organization and gather any of the items on their list. Bring them to the organization this week.

### **STORY SUMMARY**

Many feel lost in this world for reasons beyond just not knowing the physical directions to a place. Jesus reminds us that God is willing to do what it takes to find them, even if it means something crazy. And, then, when they are found, it is time to party.

Jesus tells of a shepherd who searched for one lost sheep. He tells of a woman who lost one of her silver coins. Not only did she search for the coin, but she rejoiced when she found it. Jesus tells of a wayward son whose father longed for his return and celebrated the day his son came home. In the same way, Jesus longs for us to come to him. All of heaven rejoices when we do.

### **NEXT WEEK In Sunday School**

Jesus tells a story of a rich man and a poor man named Lazarus. They both die, and while Lazarus is comforted, the rich man suffers (Luke 16:19-31).

## 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 15:1-32

Anyone who feels lost can trust that not only will God search until they are found, but there will be a celebration in heaven. How can you help find someone who is lost?

### MONDAY: Psalm 119:169-176

God promises to take care of us. What are some ways you can keep learning about God's word?

### TUESDAY: 1 Samuel 16:6-13

God chose a shepherd to be a great leader of the nations. How does trusting God like a shepherd make you feel secure?

### WEDNESDAY: Genesis 45:1-9

Tossed aside by his brothers, Joseph ended up living an amazing adventure. When have you experienced the joy of gathering with friends and family?

### THURSDAY: Genesis 45:21-28

Jacob experienced a resurrection of sorts when he found his son Joseph alive and well in another part of the world. How can you celebrate each day as if you have been given another chance to thrive?

### FRIDAY: Exodus 2:1-10

Moses should not have survived being born. He was in danger from the Pharaoh. But God had other plans, and Moses became an important leader.

### SATURDAY: John 4:46-54

We do not need signs and wonders to have faith. What kind of prayers can you offer for those in need?

Marsha P. Johnson. Sylvia Rivera. Christine Jorgensen. Laverne Cox. Elliot Page. Sarah McBride. Zoey Zephyr. SJ Howell. Wick Thomas. As we approach **Transgender Day of Visibility**, it's appropriate we think of the people who have made an impact on the trans community and beyond.

Each year on March 31, the world observes Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV) to raise awareness about transgender people. Created in 2010 by trans advocate Rachel Crandall in response to the slew of negative media stories about transgender people, TDOV is a day to celebrate the lives and contributions of trans people, while drawing attention to the challenges faced.

Johnson and Rivera were present at the Stonewall uprising in 1969 and became leaders in the early LGBTQ+ rights movement. Jorgensen was the first person to be widely known in the U.S. to have gender-affirming surgery. Actors Cox and Page continue to advocate for trans people by sharing their stories and celebrity. And in the political arena, McBride is the first trans woman to serve in Congress, while state legislators Zephyr and Howell serve their constituents in Montana and advocate for LGBTQ+ rights. Missouri Rep. Wick Thomas from Jackson County is the first non-binary person elected to serve in Jefferson City. Thomas is a member of the new Equality Caucus, a group of Democrats that advocate for the rights of LGBTQ+ Missourians.

Missouri can be a difficult place to live for our LGBT+ citizens. So far in 2025, 56 anti-LGBTQ+ bills, many targeting trans citizens, have been introduced by Republican representatives and senators. These bills seek to put bathroom bans into place, forbid public drag shows, end gender-affirming health care, keep trans athletes from playing on their school's sports teams, and restricting a person's ability to update gender on state-issued IDs.

**As followers of Jesus, we can show compassion and care for trans siblings while we advocate for their rights. Several opportunities will be forthcoming...**

**\*\* March 30**, our Jesus Has Left the Building Sunday will feature opportunities to serve the trans and LGBTQ+ community. Opportunities at church will include creating and/or addressing cards of encouragement for parents of trans children that will be distributed through two local chapters of TransParent USA. An advocacy corner will include postcards to address to your Congressional representatives.

**\*\* April 6** at 6pm, there will be a showing of the documentary, "Will & Harper," followed by a discussion in the Heritage Room.

**\*\* March 31** There will be a fundraiser from 4-9pm at Steve's Hot Dogs, 3145 S. Grand Blvd., to benefit PROMO Missouri and TransParent. Music bingo, trivia, and a silent auction will be a part of this evening. Metro Trans Umbrella Group is hosting an event, "We Ain't Going Anywhere". Folks will gather at 5:30pm at Kiener Plaza and march at 6pm to City Hall for a rally. On April 1st, Metropolitan Community Church of Greater St. Louis and Central Reform Congregation will host a TDOV service at CRC at 7pm.