

Traveling with **JESUS**





www.parkwayucc.org

March 30, 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 Greg Schmelig.

Flowers given by the Moellerings in honor of Sue's mom, Katherine Biehl.

Treats after worship provided by Karen Mariani.

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://warmlines.org/warmdir.html>

Birthdays

3/31 Matthew Williams

4/1 Liz Lyons

4/2 Kevin Rauscher

4/4 Jennifer Krpan

4th Sunday in Lent: On the Road

Sunday, March 30, 2025 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & YouTube Live

Prelude *Prelude in G* by Bach

Welcome Let us know you are here!

Meditation Because of his boundless love, Jesus became what we are - that he might make us to be what he is. ~Irenaeus of Lyons

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 - ving 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.

***Call to Worship** based on words by Ben Anderson David Hensley

One:	God has birthed in us life, truth, hope, faith and love.
Many:	Let us be doers of God's word, and not merely hearers.
One:	God has led us into light, made rugged places smooth, blessed us with the Holy Spirit and enabled us to be God's children.
Many:	Let us carry the light with us out on the road.
One:	God is love, and God loves us beyond our ability to understand. In God's love, God became us in Jesus - to experience our pain, heal us and teach us more about love.
Many:	Let us find ways to relieve people of burdens and to bless them with a word, a hand, our hearts and hopes.
One:	God reveals to us purpose in our life. God desires us to be participants in God's mission in the world. God readies us for service by giving us countless gifts of the Holy Spirit.
All:	Let us be doers of God's word out on the road, and not merely hearers.

*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, out in the vineyard or on the road. 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 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.

Scripture Luke 10:1-3a | New Revised Standard Version

After this, Jesus appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into this harvest. Go on your way; I am sending you out..."

Reflection

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.]

***Song of Parting** *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.**

***Benediction**

***God's Light Goes Forth**

***Jesus Has Left the Building** *Lean on Me*

Easter Choir After Church Rehearsal Opportunity TODAY

Anyone who wants to can join our choir rehearsal from 11-12pm. We will work on Easter music. There will be two opportunities to share these gifts: Easter Sunday and/or a special singing service opportunities after Easter. Questions? amy@parkwayucc.org

DOWNLOAD OUR NEW PUCC APP TODAY!

Parkway UCC's App is a robust tool that helps us connect and communicate easily. One Church is a gamechanger that will help us to be more vital. Scan the QR code to see the instructions for downloading the app:



Our online member directory is a feature many of you have been waiting for! We take your privacy seriously. The directory is accessible only to PUCC members and staff who use their password to login.

We have also begun using our new front door keypad installed on the brick wall to the right of the doors by our Safety Team. Please select your own unique 4-digit code and send it to gabriel@parkwayucc.org so we can load it into the keypad and troubleshoot as needed.

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 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 or 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

March 2025 Council Meeting Highlights

- Council accepted and signed the new Confidentiality Agreement that will be signed by Council, Staff, Counters, Treasurer, Stewardship Commission, Financial Oversight Team, and Bookkeeper to keep pledges and other information confidential.
- A policy was created to address the UCC Guidance on ICE entering our church building.
- The Safety Team is investigating adding outdoor cameras to the parking lots out front, on the sides and in the back of the building.
- The Communication Team introduced the need for establishing Gender Neutral bathrooms and also and their plans to survey the congregation about refreshing/revitalizing the Gathering Space.
- All members of Commissions and Committees are invited to a meeting after church on April 6th to discuss onboarding the different groups in compliance with the new Bylaws and Governance Procedures.

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 with questions

2025 Lent Devotional Small Group Into the Deep

Sundays during Lent, April 6 | 9-:9:30am | Heritage Room

We are hosting a Lent devotional discussion in the Heritage Room on Sundays at 9am. Please come! Childcare will be provided for children through 5th grade in the Nursery.

For more info, contact Gabriel gabriel@parkwayucc.org.

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.

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

Tuesday Evening Dialogue

April 8 | 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.

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. 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

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

Coffee and Conversation at Panera

Friday, April 25 | 10am | 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: **Tuesday, May 20** at 2pm

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

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.

Prayer List

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

Celebrations

The Lenten Journey: *Traveling with Jesus.*

Trans Day of Visibility - March 31 annually.

Bethany & Ricky - first child due in April (Grandmas Jackie & Marion).

Concerns

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

Phil & Laura Waite and boys as they grieve/give thanks for his mom.

Stan and Kathy Burcham - as his sister died last week.

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

Jo Grove - healing after a fall that resulted in stitches and bruised ribs.

Randy and Karla Beck - his broken leg.

Lori and Dan Connors - healing of her broken shoulder blade.

Vicki Cathey - back surgery April 1 (sister-in-law of John/Joyce Ruiz).

Continued chaos and grief in the Middle East.

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).

Bob - recuperating at home after multiple surgeries (Tarr).

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. Some in our church family also need help getting to worship. Please let kevin@parkwayucc.org know you are willing to help and you'll be added to the list of potential drivers. Thx!

Missed the Boat

Vince Amlin

[Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side ... [and] he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. – Matthew 14:22-25 (NRSV)

I recently heard the story of St. Ia for the first time—a young Irish princess who felt called to spread the good news of God’s love across the sea.

But the morning she was to set sail, she found the others had left without her. She stood dejected on the shore, sure she had lost her chance.

Until she saw a leaf floating in the shallows. She reached out her staff to touch it, and it started to grow. Soon it was large enough for her to climb aboard, and she sailed away to the place where God had called her.

I admire that faith. I might’ve packed it in. Figured I’d heard wrong. But, of course, Ia was drawing on Jesus’s own example. Walking across the water to catch up with the disciples. She knew that ours is a God of those who’ve missed the boat.

Life is full of regret. Opportunities that arrive at inopportune moments. Times when the timing just isn’t right. And though we hear God’s call to something new, we can convince ourselves: it’s too late.

But if you are standing on that shore, watching your boat recede on the horizon, sure you have lost your chance, say a prayer to the one who makes water walkable and builds boats from leaves.

Prayer

Waymaker, if it’s you calling, show me how to answer. Amen.