



www.parkwayucc.org

April 27, 2025

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Limitless Love | Courageous Action | Spirited Inquiry

Purpose Statement

Parkway United Church of Christ strives to be an inclusive community embracing: spiritual nourishment, open-minded inquiry, courageous action, and interfaith partnerships to fulfill God's calling to create a just world for all.

Congregational Statement

Parkway United Church of Christ, with God's grace, seeks to be a congregation that includes all persons, regardless of race, ethnic, or socio—economic background while respecting differences of gender, marital status, age, sexual orientation, and mental and physical ability. We aspire to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God. We invite all to share in the life and leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities and blessings of participation in our open and affirming congregation.

PARKWAY UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

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Welcome *to* Parkway

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

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

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

Worship Serving Today

Scripture Reader is Ellie Svenson.

Flowers given by the Flower Team.

Treats after worship provided by Betty Scherrer.

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!



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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

4/28 Sylvie Delannay

4/28 Harper Downing

4/29 Meredith Downing

4/29 Kathy Ferrell

4/29 Atticus Reed

Anniversaries

4/30 Cheryl & Rick Schrenker

2nd Sunday of Easter

Sunday, April 27, 2025 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & YouTube Live

Prelude *Prelude in Classic Style* by Gordon Young (Abbreviated)

Welcome Let us know you are here!

Meditation People may never truly understand something until it happens to them. ~Simple Reminders

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 #2272—*Holy Ground* | [Blue Songbook](#) (please sing twice)

We are stand - ing _____ on ho - ly ground, _____
_____ and I know that there are an - gels all a -
round; _____ let us praise _____
_____ Je - sus now; _____ we are
stand - ing in his pres - ence on ho - ly ground. _____

Scripture Luke 24:13-35 | The Message (MSG)

That same day two of them were walking to the village Emmaus, about seven miles out of Jerusalem. They were deep in conversation, going over all these things that had happened. In the middle of their talk and questions, Jesus came up and walked along with them. But they were not able to recognize who he was. He asked, "What's this you're discussing so intently as you walk along?" Then one of them, his name was Cleopas, said, "Are you the only one in Jerusalem who hasn't heard what's happened during the last few days?" He said, "What has happened?"

They said, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene. He was a man of God, a prophet, dynamic in work and word, blessed by both God and all the

people. Then our high priests and leaders betrayed him, got him sentenced to death, and crucified him.

And we had our hopes up that he was the One, the One about to deliver Israel. And it is now the third day since it happened.

But now some of our women have completely confused us. Early this morning they were at the tomb and couldn't find his body. They came back with the story that they had seen a vision of angels who said he was alive.

Some of our friends went off to the tomb to check and found it empty just as the women said, but they didn't see Jesus."

Then he said to them, "So thick-headed! So slow-hearted! Why can't you simply believe all that the prophets said?

Don't you see that these things had to happen, that the Messiah had to suffer and only then enter into his glory?"

Then he started at the beginning, with the Books of Moses, and went on through all the Prophets, pointing out everything in the Scriptures that referred to him.

They came to the edge of the village where they were headed. He acted as if he were going on but they pressed him: "Stay and have supper with us. It's nearly evening; the day is done." So he went in with them.

And here is what happened: He sat down at the table with them. Taking the bread, he blessed and broke and gave it to them.

At that moment, open-eyed, wide-eyed, they recognized him. And then he disappeared.

Back and forth they talked. "Didn't we feel on fire as he conversed with us on the road, as he opened up the Scriptures for us?"

They didn't waste a minute. They were up and on their way back to Jerusalem. They found the Eleven and their friends gathered together, talking away:

"It's really happened! The Master has been raised up - Simon saw him!"

Then the two went over everything that happened on the road and how they recognized him when he broke the bread.

***Call to Worship** Martha Peck

One: The road was sandy. Our feet were tired.

Many: We talked about many things. We just wanted to get home.

One: We already missed Jesus.

Many: We were scared. We hoped it was true.

One: We did not know what to believe.

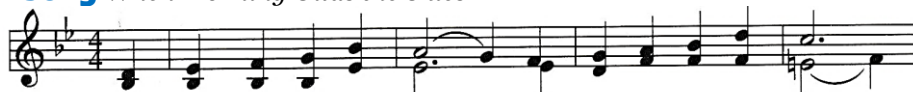
Many: We did not notice the face of the one who walked beside us.

One: But our hearts burned...

Many: We invited the stranger: Stay with us.

All: Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.

***Song** *When Morning Gilds the Skies*



1. When morn - ing gilds the skies, My heart a - wak - ing cries:
2. Does sad - ness fill my mind? A sol - ace here I find:
3. Let earth's wide cir - cle round In joy - ful notes re - sound:
4. Be this, while life is mine, My can - ti - cle di - vine:



May Je - sus Christ be praised! A - like at work and prayer
May Je - sus Christ be praised! Or fades my earth - ly bliss?
May Je - sus Christ be praised! Let air and sea and sky
May Je - sus Christ be praised! Be this the e - ter - nal song



To Je - sus I re - pair: May Je - sus Christ be praised!
My com - fort still is this: May Je - sus Christ be praised!
From depth to height re - ply: May Je - sus Christ be praised!
Through all the a - ges long: May Je - sus Christ be praised!

***Opening Prayer** Martha Peck

Risen Christ, yours is the heartbeat of grace deep within us, the light step beside us on our journeys, the footprints in the sand, revealing how you carry us when we grow weary. Yours is the face we glimpse when we perceive one another's holiness. Yours are the promises: that life conquers death, that goodness is stronger than evil, and that we can build our lives around your shining truth. Show us where you are today, in this place, and in each of us. Amen.

***Response** #322—*Spirit of the Living God* | Red Hymnal

Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me;

Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me!

Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.

Children's Time For children under the age of 3, parents are invited to take them to Room 09 (upper level) where one of our teachers will meet them at the door. Children and youth will gather in Room 13 (lower level) for the Opening Session. Children from age 3 to 5th grade will then go to Room 12, and youth from 6th to 12th grade will go to Room 15. For children in Room 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 *This Little Light of Mine*
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Scripture John 20:19-31 | MSG (The Message)

Later on that day, the disciples had gathered together, but, fearful of the Jews, had locked all the doors in the house. Jesus entered, stood among them, and said, "Peace to you."

Then he showed them his hands and side.

Jesus repeated his greeting: "Peace to you. Just as God sent me, I send you."

Then he took a deep breath and breathed into them. "Receive the Holy Spirit," he said.

"If you forgive someone's sins, they're gone for good. If you don't forgive sins, what are you going to do with them?"

But Thomas, sometimes called the Twin, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.

The other disciples told him, "We saw the Master."

But he said, "Unless I see the nail holes in his hands, put my finger in the nail holes, and stick my hand in his side, I won't believe it."

Eight days later, his disciples were again in the room. This time Thomas was with them. Jesus came through the locked doors, stood among them, and said, "Peace to you."

Then he focused his attention on Thomas. "Take your finger and examine my hands. Take your hand and stick it in my side. Don't be unbelieving. Believe." Thomas said, "My Master! My God!"

Jesus said, "So, you believe because you've seen with your own eyes. Even better blessings are in store for those who believe without seeing."

Jesus provided far more God-revealing signs than are written down in this book.

These are written down so you will believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and in the act of believing, have real and eternal life in the way he personally revealed it.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon

Call to Prayer #2171—*Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace* | Blue Songbook



1. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. _____ Where
 2. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. _____ Where
 4. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. _____ It



there is ha-tred, let me bring your love. _____ Where
 there's de-spair in life, let me bring hope. _____ Where
 is in par-don - ing that we are par - doned, _____ in



there is in - ju - ry, your par-don, Lord, _____ and
 there is dark - ness, _____ on - ly light, _____ and
 giv - ing of our - selves that we re - ceive, _____ and in



where there's doubt, true faith in you. _____
 where there's sad - ness, ev - er joy. _____
 dy - ing that we're born to e-ter-nal life. _____



3. Oh, Mas-ter, grant that I may nev-er seek _____ so



much to be con-soled as to con - sole. _____ To be



un - der-stood as to un - der - stand, _____ to be



loved as to love with all my soul. _____

D.C.

Pastoral Prayer, Prayers of the People, Lord's Prayer

Our [Creator/Mother/Father/Holy One] **who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

[A variety of names for God are welcome here – including in the Lord's Prayer.]

Offering Our Gifts to God



If you have an offering today, please place it in the plate on the 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 *Christ is Risen in Appalachian-Style Melody* by Vladimir Morosan

*Response

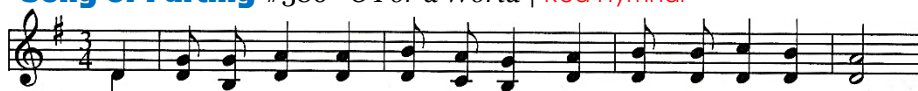
**Praise God whose many names abound;
Our Peace, our Rock, Our Holy Ground,
Our Home, our All, Earth's Majesty,
Love, Spirit, Light and Mystery. Amen**

*Prayer of Dedication

 Martha Peck

God, you have made of us an Easter people, ready to tell the news of death's defeat, eager to share our joy and our money, alive with hope, accompanied by glory, on the road with Jesus. Bless our gathering, our gifts, and our going forth. Amen.

*Song of Parting

 #386—*O For a World* | Red Hymnal

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



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

*Benediction

*God's Light Goes Forth

Music for Going Forth *Hosanna- I've Got the Joy of the Lord*

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 [@parkwayuccsl](https://www.youtube.com/@parkwayuccsl). There is a subscribe button under the main heading and brief description of our church. Thank you! Questions? Please contact barbharris@charter.net or cynthianouri@gmail.com

Speaker Series Occasional opportunities after worship at 11:15am **“Take Back America,” by Cynthia Changyit Levin.**

April 27 | 11:15am | Heritage Room

One of our most popular Speakers Series presenter, Parkway member Cynthia Changyit Levin has participated in eleven congressional lobby meetings in Washington DC and the St Louis area since February.

She'll share how the mood on the Hill is changing and give updates on some poverty programs, including foreign aid and Medicaid. Come ready to talk with others about your concerns about American democracy and think about new ways you'll stand up for programs that support our values and protect our vulnerable neighbors. We'll also all work together to create an advocacy action plan to live out our faith by speaking up!

Don't just sit back and moan and groan. Attend this must see program, in which Cindy will super charge your advocacy as a citizen of America.

For questions, kindly contact Richard Scherrer at 90fivetpr@gmail.com

April Earth Day Events in the St. Louis Area

Please consider joining the community in these events at the end of the month

Saint Louis Earth Day Festival

April 27 | 11am-5pm | Muny Grounds in Forest Park

The St. Louis Earth Day Festival is a community tradition to learn about sustainable products and services offered by local businesses and organizations. The festival is held on the Muny grounds in Forest Park. It is free to the public. The festival features local entertainment and local Green Dining Alliance restaurants.

Creve Coeur Arbor Day Celebration & Art Contest

Sunday, April 27 | 1-3pm | Millennium Park

The community is invited to celebrate Arbor Day on April 27 at Millennium Park (2 Barnes West Dr.) with a free sapling giveaway, tree planting demonstration, activities for kids, educational displays, and a performance by Babaloo Music & Fun!

Adventurous Men Out Early

AMOE meets next Thursday, May 1 at 9:15am in the Heritage Room for coffee and chatter. All are invited.

Please contact Richard Scherrer with any questions or comments, via 90fivetpr@gmail.com

Virtual Program: 21-Day Racial Equity & Social Justice Challenge

May 1-21 | Virtual

Accept this challenge to expand your understanding of equity and social justice. This challenge asks participants to make daily time and space for 21 days (May 1-21) to foster understanding and identify ways to dismantle racism and end discrimination. Presented by YWCA Metro St. Louis. Adults. Registration required. Click or scan QR code!



Registrants will receive a daily list of activities and an opportunity to participate in facilitated discussions on Wednesdays at 10 am.

Be a Buddy! Special Olympics Spring Games

Saturday, May 3 | 8:15am-3pm | Westminster Academy

This is one of the most rewarding volunteer jobs of all time! You will be paired directly with 1-2 athletes. You are required to spend the entire day together, accompanying them to each of their events to ensure they are on time and cheer for them as they compete, eat lunch together and visit Victory Village. Note: Due to the nature of this job you must be over the age of 16 (or directly accompanied by someone who is) and must be able to commit to this job for the entire day or until your athlete leaves. PUCC is gathering half a dozen volunteers to join Kevin as a BUDDY! Click or scan the QR code to register.



For more info or need help registering, contact Kevin Cameron at kevin@parkwayucc.org

The Bel Canto Chorus of Saint Louis Spring Concert

Saturday, May 3 | 3pm | 2841 North Ballas Road, St. Louis, Missouri

Join the Bel Canto Chorus, with conductor Bruce Vantine, for a Spring concert. Featuring a variety of seasonal anthems including music by J.S. Bach, Gallus Dressler, Johannes Brahms, Bruce Vantine, selections from The Sound of Music, and folk melodies.

Tickets: \$20 for adults; \$12 for students w/ID & children

A reception will follow the concert.

For more info, contact Bruce Vantine bvantine@charter.net

Intertwine Interfaith Game Night

Deepen our interfaith friendships

Saturday, May 3 | 6-8pm | Fellowship Hall

We will have all kinds of games available to pick up and play with others at round tables in our Fellowship Hall - including *chess*, *checkers*, *Uno*, *Operation*, *Sorry*, *Chutes and Ladders*, *Clue*, *Pictionary*. There will be *backgammon* and *mahjongg* lessons for beginners. There will be some fun group games and some rounds of *Bingo* for everyone - yes, PRIZES! Learn how to make balloon animals and juggle. The popcorn machine will be on, and we will have water, lemonade, coffee and tea. Please consider bringing halal and kosher treats to share. No RSVP needed. Just come! Questions?

Contact kevin@parkwayucc.org

'Stadium Scare' Escape Room for PUCC Teens

Sunday, May 4 | 2:30-5pm | Mastermind Escape Room

Calling all middle schoolers and high schoolers to an Escape Room adventure! *During a sold out game at Busch Stadium, a maniacal character takes you and your friends hostage. He locks you in the bowels of the stadium and tells you a string of bombs will detonate in 1 hour if not disarmed by your team. To quench his thirst for twisted entertainment, he tells you where to start but not exactly how to turn them off.*

We will meet at church at 2:30pm before heading out.

Questions? Contact kevin@parkwayucc.org

Click or scan QR code to register. Cost is \$10 per person.

Let us know if finances would hinder your participation.



Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue – May 6

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 Zoom on May 6, May 20, and June 3 for discussion of the book *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See. At each meeting we'll gather at 1:45 on Zoom to check in with each other and get to know each other better, and then discuss the book in thirds, one third of the book at each meeting.

This is the second Lisa See novel that TAD has read. The author accurately provides historical detail and context, and tells a fascinating story in each book that she writes. From the book jacket, this historical fiction book, set on the Korean Island of Jeju, follows two girls from very different backgrounds as they begin working in the sea with their village's all-female diving collective in the 1930s. The book spans wars and generations. After hundreds of dives and years of friendship, forces outside their control will push their relationship to the breaking point. This beautiful, thoughtful novel illuminates a unique and unforgettable culture, one where the women are in charge, engaging in dangerous physical work, and the men take care of the children.

For more info, please contact Jackie Eiffert jeiffert2@gmail.com

Mother's Day Brunch

Sunday, May 11 after worship in the Fellowship Hall.

We're excited to announce that we're hosting a special pancake breakfast on Mother's Day to celebrate mothers of all kinds—animal, plant, or human! We would love for you to join us right *after* the service on **Sunday, May 11**, for a delicious meal. The meal will feature pancakes, bacon, sausage, scrambled eggs, and your choice of beverage, including orange juice, apple juice, coffee, or water. It's a great opportunity to celebrate motherhood and enjoy a tasty brunch with friends and family.

To show our appreciation, mothers and children 12 and under eat free. For all others, we kindly request a donation of \$5 per person. Your contributions will help us cover the costs of the event.

Additionally, we're looking for volunteers to help make this event a success. We need assistance with preparation, serving, and cleanup. If you're available to lend a hand, please join us at 9am on Sunday, May 11, to start preparations. All skill levels are welcome, and your help would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to contact Phil Waite at pwaite82@gmail.com.

Prayer Corner: an opportunity to pray with someone

Monday, May 12 | 6-8pm | New Sanctuary

Drop-in Prayer Time. Kevin will be in the Prayer Corner in the Sanctuary.

Come on by if you'd like to pray together.

If you see someone else there, simply wait a bit in the Gathering Space.

We can arrange a phone call or Zoom for another time if you'd like. Just reach out to kevin@parkwayucc.org

Tuesday Evening Dialogue

Tuesday, May 13 | 6-8pm | Heritage Room

Zoom Meeting ID: 849 4403 9731; Passcode: 792617

Please join us in person or on ZOOM as we read and discuss our new book entitled *Anxious People* by Frederic Bachman. It is described as an “endlessly entertaining mood-booster” and who doesn't need that these days? Starting out at a real estate open house where a failed bank robber takes a group of strangers hostage. Each of them carries a lifetime of grievances, hurts, secrets, and passions that are ready to boil over. And all of them—the bank robber included—desperately crave some sort of rescue. As the authorities and the media surround the premises, these reluctant allies will reveal surprising truths about themselves and set in motion a chain of events so unexpected that even they can hardly explain what happens next. The story demonstrates the enduring power of friendship, forgiveness, and hope can save us—even in the most anxious of times.

We will break this book into 3 sessions: April 22, May 13 and May 27.

Bring a dish to share for our pot luck & join us for our next conversation! Newcomers are always welcome! For questions, please contact Helen Race at raceh@att.net.

Congratulations Class of 2025!

We are excited to announce a special celebration honoring our 2025 graduates! Join us after worship on **May 18** for cupcakes as we recognize their hard work, dedication, and faith-filled journey. Let's come together as a church family to celebrate this milestone and pray over our graduates as they step into the next chapter of their lives. All are welcome to attend! If you or your child is graduating this year and would like to be recognized, please contact Gabriel by **May 11** at gabriel@parkwayucc.org. "Commit to God whatever you do, and God will establish your plans." - Proverbs 16:3

Spring Family Friendship Potluck – Sunday, May 18

For families with children, you are invited to a Friendship Potluck on Sunday, **May 18**. After service, we will head to the church playground where the kids can run around and play while the parents relax, get to know each other and

enjoy the day! If it rains, we'll move indoors to the Fellowship Hall. Bring the entire family and a dish to share! Please RSVP to Cindy Wessel or Kathy Burcham.

Cindy Wessel cindywessel@yahoo.com

Kathy Burcham kathleenburcham@sbcglobal.net

For those who signed up for the Spring Friendship Dinners, the dinner hosts have been given the list of their guests. Guests will be contacted by their host to plan the dinner.

Coffee and Conversation at Panera

Tuesday, May 20 | 2pm | Panera on Manchester Road in Des Peres

Join us for a beverage and sweet treat. Come connect!

No need to RSVP - just show up!

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

Adventurous Women Out Late 2025

Come build relationships with other PUCers in 2025.

Hey ladies! We are looking at our summer plans! Ideas? Just send me what you'd like to do! I am hoping to add some old and new things.

UP NEXT: 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

Bread for the World Opportunities for Activism

Join the Offering of Letters Team: Our annual Offering of Letters event will be **Sunday, June 1**, when our congregation will write to Congress together to protect nutrition programs. Be part of our team crafting our worship experience and helping folks write letters. Contact Cynthia Changyit Levin to join the team at changyit@icloud.com.

Attend the 50th Bread for the World Summit in Washington DC: Travel to DC for a profound experience **June 9-11**, including inspiration, training, and lobbying offices of your members of Congress! Meet Bread volunteers and organizers from around the U.S. speaking out against hunger. Join Cynthia for a Zoom Q&A info session Tues, May 6 at 8pm <https://tinyurl.com/PUCCBread>

Visit <https://www.bread.org/advocacy-summit/> for the summit schedule, lodging info, and registration. If finances are a barrier for attending, contact Cynthia at changyit@icloud.com

SAVE THE DATE: Habitat for Humanity Project—July 12

Parkway UCC is doing our annual Habitat for Humanity housing building project on Saturday, July 12. More info to come. Donate to the STL Habitat for Humanity at <https://www.habitatstl.org/donate/>. For more info, or if you'd like to be on the 7/12 crew, contact Tom at mckenzie1947@att.net

SAVE THE DATE: Youth Mission Experience – July 20-24

Pickup a flier today from gabriel@parkwayucc.org

April LGBTQ+ Advocacy Corner

I handed Ellen a bag filled with cards. As she took them from me, I saw her eyes well up with emotion. She told me it will mean so much to the recipients to know they are seen by others. These are the cards you addressed as part of last month's Jesus Has Left the Building Sunday. Ellen helps to lead the St. Louis chapter of Transparent USA, an organization dedicated to bringing compassionate support to parents and caregivers of gender-expansive children of any age. I use only her first name to protect her family's privacy. Ellen and I shared a two-hour conversation over coffee on a recent Saturday morning. We had an immediate mom-to-mom connection, and I think it was important that I did more listening than talking. She told me about the battles parents must fight so their trans kids can have health care or the freedom to express their gender in public. She said some families are at odds with grandparents or other family members over pronouns. Parenting is hard, but parents of trans children have unique challenges.

So, when I spoke, I shared words of affirmation for her and her trans child. I also asked how affirming/progressive churches could walk along the road with the trans families in our area. She had more than a dozen ideas and when I combed through them at home, I realized the prevailing points were about education (within our own families, circles and greater community) and stepping up allyship efforts so already exhausted parents don't have to always show up at hearings and school board meetings to defend their kids' rights to exist. The Gender & Sexuality Justice Ministry of the United Church of Christ reminds us that the fluidity of God's design is wondrous and vast! No matter who you are, your sexuality or gender, God makes no mistakes.

Sadly, some churches continue to weaponize the Bible to harm our LGBTQ+ siblings. As members of an Open & Affirming church, we can share another message; one of love, acceptance and inclusion. If you're ready to take a step toward this, I invite you to sign up for the Open and Affirming group on One Church. Here, I share resources, action items and good news that affirms our LGBTQ+ siblings. Some of this information can be downloaded and shared on your social networks. Others might be resources to share with other groups you're in. Join other members and receive updates in your inbox when new content is posted.

And more cards to encourage LGBTQ+ people and their families will be made and delivered to folks in our area and across the country. Watch for new opportunities in upcoming newsletters and bulletins. Love is Louder, and we must Love Our Neighbor Out Loud. — Deb Reinhardt

Earth Day Resolutions Appreciation

Thank you to all who made EARTH DAY resolutions and promises and posted them to our board. Here is the compiled list of these resolutions that those in our congregation have promised to work on this year. Many are related to recycling and composting, but there is a unique mixture:

Help with the garden, Plant crops, Plan a prairie area on our property – no mow, Plant trees, Compost, Recycle compost, Walk more – drive less, Recycle – unplug what's not in use, Buy local when possible, Reduce single use plastic, Recycle better, Recycle almost everything, Do not use plastic water bottles, Use reusable/cloth grocery bags, Give away more, Apply for weatherization help, Buy a more efficient water heater, Love my dog, Get into nature more, Take more walks in the woods, Don't run water while brushing teeth, Pick up trash and liter while on walks or a specific area, Try to eliminate honeysuckle, Always think about what I'm throwing away and where it is going to end up! From your Eco Stewards! Earth Day/ Every Day/ You CAN Make a Difference

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, April 23, 2025

Celebrations

We are Easter people: *Traveling with Jesus.*

Mark and Phyllis Rogers - in new home in Belize (Mike's brother).

Giving thanks for Pope Francis - grieving with our Catholic siblings.

Concerns

Kathleen Tarr - home after hospitalization for flu and asthma flare up.

Marion Pleis - on the mend after fall; resting; sore but nothing broken.

Randy and Karla Beck - in rehab for his leg; finally home last week.

Family/friends of Mary Adkins grieving/giving thanks for her.

Vicki - healing after back surgery (sister-in-law of John/Joyce Ruiz).

Mark McKenzie - for healing, clarity, refreshment (Tom's brother).

Rev Mark Boyea (Sanibel UCC) - cancer treatments (Svenson).

Continued chaos and grief in the Middle East.

The continuing war with Ukraine and Russia.

Continuing

Bill and Kathy Hilgeman - healing from his pneumonia.

John and Dottie Dwyer - as he continues medical tests and consults.

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

Keith Borgmann - continuing to gain strength after illness.

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 and wife - 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).

Craig Hoffman - career Navy officer receiving hospice care (Svenson).

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.

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. You will be added to the list of potential drivers and will receive an email once we have a request for a ride.

In Search of Wheels

Due to suddenly losing their car in a wreck, a PUCC family is looking to buy a used car or SUV. If you know of someone who is selling a vehicle, please let kevin@parkwayucc.org know and he will make a connection.

LAST WEEK in Sunday School

Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey to great celebration. But later that week, Judas agrees to betray Jesus, Jesus shares a last supper with his disciples, and Jesus dies on a cross mocked and forsaken (Luke 19:29-40; 22:1-6, 14-23; 23:32-47).

TODAY in Sunday School

Angels announce to several female disciples that Jesus was raised from the dead. Later that day, Jesus walks with two disciples as they travel to Emmaus. He teaches from Scripture about himself, unrecognized until he breaks bread with them (Luke 24:1-12, 13-35).

THE POINT

The risen Jesus appears to his disciples.

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

Our God is infinitely greater than we can ever imagine. But, instead of leaving us ignorant, God chooses to reveal aspects of God's self through metaphors and other images. Scripture uses many images that can be used to describe God, including a shepherd, rock, fortress, father, warrior, nursing mother, and more. No single image is enough for us to understand God, but each one teaches us some important facet of God's character. They give us a more detailed picture of God and God's love for us.

STORY SUMMARY

The women go to the tomb expecting to find Jesus' body, but instead discover an empty tomb. Suddenly, two men in dazzling clothes appear with them. The women quickly move from sorrow and confusion to terror. When they recount the story to Peter, he rushes to the tomb to verify the story and returns in amazement. Later that day, two disciples encounter Jesus along the road but are kept from recognizing him. Filled with grief, they tell Jesus the story of the crucifixion. Jesus, in turn, explained why everything that happened was the fulfillment of prophecy. It is not until the disciples invite the stranger in to stay and eat with them that they finally recognize Jesus for who he is.

PRACTICE: Worship

The spiritual practice of worship does not have to occur in a church building. We can celebrate, share, praise, and remember Jesus in many ways. As an act of family worship, take time this week to share a challenge and how you experienced Jesus with you in the midst of your difficulty.

NEXT WEEK in Sunday School

After Pentecost, a disciple named Stephen teaches about Jesus and does miracles. He preaches to the religious leaders, but then he is stoned to death (Acts 6:1-7:2a, 44-60).

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 24:13-35

The disciples, still reeling from Christ's crucifixion, repeat the story as they walk along the road. Why do you think we do not recognize Jesus today?

MONDAY: Luke 24:36-49

Again, Jesus appears to his disciples, causing fear and doubts. When have you heard a story but were still surprised to find out it was true?

TUESDAY: Luke 24:50-53

After reappearing before his disciples, Jesus leaves them and goes to heaven. The last thing Jesus does on earth is bless his disciples. How does this also apply to us?

WEDNESDAY: Acts 1:1-11

The Book of Acts begins with a recap of where the story left off after Jesus' death and resurrection. What are ways we can carry our spiritual "highs" with us?

THURSDAY: Acts 1:12-17, 21-26

The disciples fill the role by Judas with Matthias. What are different ways that God has answered your prayers?

FRIDAY: Acts 3:11-26

The disciples continue to perform miracles and signs, yet still people struggle to believe. If you had seen the man healed, how would you have reacted?

SATURDAY: Acts 4:32-37

The believers in the early church shared their possessions with one another. Does this seem like a practical way to live today? Why or why not?