





www.parkwayucc.org

April 20, 2025

Contents

- 3 Birthdays and Anniversaries
- 4 6am Worship

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.

Scripture Reader Gabriel Requadt.

Subscribe to our email lists Sign up at www.parkwayucc.org

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Mental Health Support

988 (new nationwide 3-digit number similar to 911... call or text)

24/7 Crisis Hotline 800-273-8255 (TALK) | 800-SUICIDE: 800-784-2433

24/7 Missouri Department of Mental Health 800-811-4760

Text 741741 and someone will text right back...www.crisistextline.org

Behavioral Health Network of Greater St Louis 314-449-6713

The numbers below are called Warmlines (not Hotlines).

They are peer run by people with lived experience.

Not all of them are 24/7/365

Teen Warm Line: 1 800-248-8336

Black Warm Line: 1-800-604-5841 (They are divested from the police)

Trans Warm Line: 1-877-565-8860

Project Return Warm Line: 1-800-448-9777 (run away)

Learn more about warm lines: <https://warmline.org/warmdir.html>

Birthdays

4/23 Warren Biest

4/23 Dana Delibovi

4/23 Clara Zander

4/25 David Gwyn

4/26 Richard Scherrer

Anniversaries

4/25 Laura & Phil Waite

Easter Sunrise Service

Sunday, April 20, 2025 | 6am | Elm Lawn Cemetery ~ Historic Sanctuary

Welcome to Parkway UCC on this morning of *Alleluias!*

Easter is a time of great joy! Early in the morning, however, the story begins in dark, cold, quiet. Gathering in the darkness like the women did so long ago, we are warmed and encouraged by prayers, songs, community, the “new fire” and the sacrament of communion. The Day of Resurrection dawns on us as we begin to see things more clearly like Mary did that early morning. They believed that all was lost, that Jesus and his mighty mission were over...tears flowed...but this sunrise moment reminds us that there is always a split second when there is suddenly more of one thing than the other...this story is all dark and dread and grief...then comes light and love and resurrection...and the tears flow again. Then they go in the power of this love. Alleluia!

Hymn *Were You There?*

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

v.2 **Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?...**

v.3 **Were you there when God wept at Mary’s cry?...**

Lighting the New Fire

As fire is a source of warmth and light, the new fire of the Easter Vigil represents the victory in Christ of light and life over darkness and death.

Call to Worship

One: We have made it to another dawn. It has been a rough few days.

Many: We have ourselves been distressed, dismayed, separated and isolated.

One: And now light is pushing out the darkness.

Many: We can see it and feel it.

**All: Christ is risen from the tomb!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Opening Prayer Sheila Harvey Guillaume

Holy One of grace and power, we come rejoicing in Christ’s empty tomb. We come trusting in the good news that tells us Christ is always with us. The Risen Christ is living proof that You care about our lives, O God. The Risen Christ offers us glimpses of hope, even in our tears. The tomb is not quiet. It speaks. It proclaims! It is a promise of eternal life! Thank you, kind and loving God. Amen.

Hebrew Scripture Lesson Psalm 118, selected verses

O give thanks to God - for God is good. God's steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say, "God's steadfast love endures forever."

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to God.

I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is God's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that God has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Save us, we beseech you, O God!

We beseech you, give us success!

Blessed is the one who comes in God's name. We bless you from the house of God.

God has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.

O give thanks to God, for God is good. God's steadfast love endures forever!

Response *Were You There?*

Were you there when He rose up from the tomb?

Were you there when He rose up from the tomb?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when He rose up from the tomb?

Gospel Lesson Matthew 28:1-10 | New Revised Standard Version

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow.

For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you.'

So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him.

Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

Sermon

Praise Song *This is the Day*

This is the day, this is the day
That our God has made, that our God has made;
We will rejoice, we will rejoice
And be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that our God has made,
We will rejoice and be glad in it;
This is the day, this is the day that our God has made.

This is the day, this is the day
Jesus rose again, Jesus rose again;
We will rejoice, we will rejoice
And be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day Jesus rose again,
We will rejoice and be glad in it;
This is the day, this is the day Jesus rose again.

Easter Prayers, 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.

The Sacrament of Communion at our Open Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy One, we give you thanks for this simple and sacred meal. It roots us, grounds us, and sets us free with your love. As we prepare to go from this place, stay with us in ways that we can feel and trust and share. We want to travel with you and for you. We want to share the gifts of your Spirit far and wide. Amen.

Hymn

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, glad heavens, and earth reply: Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia!
God has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Benediction

2nd Mile Lent & Easter 2025

Lydia's House lydiashouse.org

Lydia's House offers secure housing and immediate community for women and children who are victims of domestic violence. They have 50 confidentially located, fully furnished apartments where families find refuge, safety and support. Lydia's transitional housing is one of the largest in the country and the only program of its kind in Eastern Missouri. Each family at Lydia's House is provided an advocate to help guide them through the process of recovering from abuse. All family members are connected to support services, including individual and group resources, to help them build the skills that are necessary not only for surviving but thriving in the wake of trauma. Lydia's House staff are involved in: Advocacy; Children's Programs; Licensed Therapy; Immigrant Services; Development, Outreach & Administrative Services; Maintenance & Facilities Support, Spiritual Support

UP - Unleashing Potential upstl.org

For well over 100 years, UP has loved children in St Louis and helped resilient families to be even more so!

Early Childhood Education: Caroline Mission is a licensed and accredited early childhood facility operated by UP. They provide quality affordable childcare for children from 6 weeks to 5 years of age.

After School Programs: UP is the #1 provider of before and after school programming in the St Louis Public Schools... fun & creative activities, homework assistance, character education, cultural awareness, health & fitness focus, arts & crafts, supervised recreation, and much more!

GeoQuest Program: expands access to education, hands-on learning, and skill training in geospatial technology for children in K-8 grades. As one of the fastest growing fields in information technology, geospatial science jobs are in high demand. In today's digital world, STEM skills are essential and becoming increasingly specialized.

Heifer International heifer.org

Heifer International does so much more than put food in the mouths of hungry people. Heifer helps people to feed themselves. The goal of every Heifer project is sustainability -- project partners achieving self-reliance. And year after year, as partner families "pass on the gift" of knowledge and one or more of their animals' offspring to others in need, they become links in a network of hope, dignity and self-reliance that helps hundreds of others care for themselves. For more information, please visit heifer.org

Bread for the World bread.org

Bread for the World is a Christian advocacy organization urging U.S. decision makers to do all they can to pursue a world without hunger. Our mission for the last 50 years is to educate and equip people to advocate for policies and programs that can help end hunger in the U.S. and around the world.

PUCC has partnered with BFW in their Offering of Letters for several years in order to speak our Christian values to our elected officials in Washington, DC. This year, at the direction of Bread, we are looking to send some PUCCers to the annual Bread Summit in DC in June. Please stay tuned for more details.