



PARKWAY
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



www.parkwayucc.org

May 4, 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 Bill Haack.

Flowers given by Bill and Christopher Haack in celebration of their wife/mother Gail's birthday.

Treats after worship provided by Linda Tossing.



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

5/1 Amber Waddell

5/2 Amanda Crawford

5/3 Gail Haack

5/6 Kim Kleine

5/7 Polly Rutherford

5/7 Blake Schowalter

5/7 Judy Toombs

5/10 Matthew Russell

5/10 Kollyns Lawson

5/10 Paige Penico

5/12 William Stappenbeck

5/12 Angie Downing

Anniversaries

5/2 Sue & Paul Stohr

5/10 Shaine & Gabriel Requadt

5/12 Kevin & Steffanie Rauscher

3rd Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 4, 2025 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & YouTube Live

Prelude *God is so Good / Dios, Bueno Es*

Welcome Let us know you are here!

Meditation The one who loves all intensely begins perceiving in all living beings a part of themselves... They become a lover of all, a part and parcel of the Universal Joy. They flow with the stream of happiness and are enriched by each soul. ~ Yajur Veda

Passing the Peace of Christ

“May the peace of Christ be with you.”

(We are intentional about bringing more peace into the world.)

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Welcome Song *You Are Welcome Here*

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "You are welcome here, no matter who you are, no matter where you are, on life's journey. You are welcome here, no matter who you are, come and join with us, in our United - ni - ted Church of Christ."

Scripture John 21:1-8 | New Revised Standard Version—NRSV

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, “Children, you have no fish, have you?” They answered him, “No.” He said to them, “Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

***Call to Worship** Sharon Fennema

Leader: You’d think, by now, we would get used to Jesus showing up like this.

Left Side: *Inviting us to cast the net deeper and wider.*

Right Side: *Showing us the way to abundance is leaning into new possibilities.*

Leader: We are opening ourselves more and more to these words and echoes of Jesus.

Left Side: *Encouraging us to share what we have and watch it multiply.*

Right Side: *Showing us the way to flourishing is together.*

Leader: We are learning to recognize the reverberations of Jesus asking about love.

Left Side: *Calling us to tend and nourish each other.*

Right Side: *Showing us the way to new life is with new solidarities.*

Leader: You’d think, by now, we would get used to Jesus in our midst.

Left Side: *Welcoming us to the worship that is love in action.*

Right Side: *Showing us the way to transformation is mutual belovedness.*

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

***Song** #469—*Morning Has Broken* | Red Hymnal



1. Morn-ing has bro - ken Like the first morn - ing, Black-bird has
2. Sweet the rain's new fall Sun - lit from heav - en, Like the first
3. Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing Born of the



spo - ken Like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the
dew - fall On the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness Of the wet
one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion, Praise ev - ery



morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing Fresh from the Word!
gar - den, Sprung in com - plete - ness Where God's feet pass.
morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion Of the new day!

***Opening Prayer** Sharon Fennema

Is it you, Jesus? Are you really here?

Is the message you gave us really true?

Did the story turn out like you said?

Can we trust it is you in the distance when the night is long and our nets empty?

Will there be more if we share?

Can we find you when we eat together?

Do we love you when we feed each other?

Amen.

***Response** *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.

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 01, parents please pick them up after worship. Children and youth from age 3 thru high school will come back up with their teachers for Communion with all of us.

Blessing the Children *Jesus Loves Me*

**Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to him belong, they are weak but he is strong.**

**Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so.**

**Jesus loves me still today, walking with me on my way,
Wanting as a friend to give, life and love to all who live.**

**Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so.**

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 *Dios, Bueno Es* | First Sunday Choir

Dios, bueno es
Dios, bueno es
Bueno es el Señor

Dios, bueno es
Dios, bueno es
Me ha sido fiel

*Translation from the Spanish:
God is Good; Good is the Lord
God is Good; God has been faithful to me

***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** based on words by Sharon Fennema

Holy One, the impulse to share bubbles up inside of us. Along with you, we desire dignity and justice for all. There is more when we contribute to each other's wholeness together - flourishing for all is possible together. Send us and guide us into generosity that is deeper and wider than it is today. Amen.

Scripture John 21:1-19 | New Revised Standard Version—NRSV

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

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When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon

Invitation to the Communion Table We invite *all* to this **open table**. All accepted—no exceptions—as we commit ourselves to limitless love, courageous action and spirited inquiry.

Communion Song #513—Let Us Break Bread Together | Red Hymnal



1. Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees; (on our knees;)
2. Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees; (on our knees;)



Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees. (on our knees.)
Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees. (on our knees.)



When I fall on my knees, With my face to the ris - ing sun,



O Lord, have mer-cy on me. (on me.)



3. Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees; (on our knees;)



Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, With my face to the ris - ing sun,



O Lord, have mer-cy on me. (on me.)

Communion Liturgy based on words by Sharon Fennema

One: After Easter, after the resurrection, when Jesus wants to be sure his followers know it's really him present again among them, more often than not, he shares food with them. To know the resurrected Jesus, to encounter life beyond death and to have hope, is to eat together surrounded by abundance.

Many: So, in the midst of all the death-dealing forces of this world, all the suffering and injustice, let us set the table together, where all are welcome, all know dignity and belovedness, and all are fed.

One: In Eastertide, we remember that our celebrations of new life don't end with resurrection. It is each fresh day dawning that calls us to keep living into this truth by building up a new world. So let us practice resurrection and build up a new world by gathering our communion prayers together.

Many: First, let us cast our nets into the depths of our joy.

One: *In a word or short phrase, what thanks do we offer our Creator today?*

One: Now, let us cast our nets into the wideness of our love.

In a word or short phrase, what prayers for compassion do we bring before Jesus today?

One: Finally, let us cast our nets into the breadth of our vision of God's kingdom come.

In a word or short phrase, what work do we hope the Spirit will do in and through us today?

One: God of newness and abundance, we set this table with our prayers, remembering that it was you who hosted that Passover meal and last supper with your friends...

All: 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.**

One: People of God, Jesus invites all to come and eat as the Spirit weaves us.

Many: As we share in the abundance of God's love, may we come to know the presence of Jesus in our midst, and be reminded that to love Jesus is to feed and nourish each other.

***Breaking Bread & Pouring Wine/Juice**

Please come forward in the center aisle to receive the bread and wine. All are welcome! Gluten-free wafers are on the communion table. Grape juice is in the outer ring; wine is in the center circles. Please return by the side aisles.

Communion Interlude *Piano Sonata in A Major (Selections)* by Mozart

*Prayer of Thanksgiving Stephanie Perdew

Holy One, we thank you for your presence in this holy feast. May we experience Jesus among us and within. Take us from this table, raised and restored, ready to listen, love and serve. Amen.

*Song of Parting #2130—Will You Come and Follow Me? | [Blue Songbook](#)



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
2 "Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er be the same?
Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world a - round,
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.



will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"
and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

*Benediction

*God's Light Goes Forth *Laast Uns Erfreuen*

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 cynthiaouri@gmail.com

Speaker Series Occasional opportunities after worship at 11:15am **“Do You Have a Voice: Memoirs of My Journey with Deaf and Hard of Hearing People,” by Dr. Jane Biehl.**

TODAY Sunday, May 4 | 11:15am | Heritage Room

Dr. Jane Biehl was six years old when she learned she had a hearing loss. However, growing up in the 1950s and '60s, Jane's experience was very different from that of children with hearing loss today. For her, this meant bulky, uncomfortable hearing aids, navigating school without the aid of interpreters and notetakers, and daily conflicts with school bullies. Despite these earlier obstacles, Jane has gone on to live an adventurous life as a librarian, counselor, and teacher, and fighting for people with disabilities. Her book, [Do You Have a Voice?](#) showcases Jane's journey as a person with hearing loss amid the changing world of disability and Deaf Culture. Inspiring, educational, and humorous, this account of Jane's journey will open your eyes to life as a person with hearing loss and teach you how kindness and joy can make a difference in the world. [Jane is sister to PUCCer Sue Moellering!]

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

‘Stadium Scare’ Escape Room for PUC Teen

TODAY 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.



Living Christ's Love Cultivating Understanding and Extending Embrace to the LGBTQ+ Community, A perspective based on science and compassion

The event is planned for 2 hours starting at 6:30pm TODAY Sunday evening **May 4, 2025** at St. John's United Church of Christ in Collinsville, Illinois.

Approximately one hour, starting at 6:30pm, will be a presentation by Dr. Kait Huelsman, a clinical psychologist who has conducted research related to transgender members of the LGBTQ+ community and has organized groups supporting LGBTQ+ individuals.

The second hour will be a panel discussion with members of the LGBTQ+ community.

The goal is to present the current scientific understanding of sexual orientation and gender diversity and provide an opportunity for the audience to ask questions of members of the community in order to gain a further understanding of the challenges faced by members of the LGBTQ+ community.

They welcome anyone who would like to come.

St. John's United Church of Christ is located at 307 West Clay Street, Collinsville, Illinois 62234; 618-344-2526. According to Google Maps, their church is 21 minutes from the Poplar St. Bridge and easily accessed from Interstates 55 and 64 and 255.

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

May 1-21 | Virtual... it's not too late to sign up!

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.

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 pancake, 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 potluck and 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 18th**. After service, we will head to the church playground where the kids can run around and play while the parents relax, get to know one another, and enjoy the day! If it rains, we'll move indoors to the Fellowship Hall. Bring the entire family and a dish, snack, dessert, or drinks to share! Hot dogs will be provided.

Please RSVP to Cindy Wessel or Cindy Nouri by May 11.

Cindy Wessel cindywessel@yahoo.com

Cindy Nouri cynthianouri@gmail.com

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.

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 cbum@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 Tuesday, 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 in the Gathering Space or from **gabriel@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**

Prayer List

Wednesday, April 30, 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.

Ellie Svenson - a granddaughter on the way in Chicago!

Concerns

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

Cathy and Rick Hasler - both in midst of health challenges, treatment

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

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

Gail and Cliff Saxton - as she receives palliative care at home...

Cards/notes welcome 12363 Federal Dr, StL 63131. She was a very active PUCcer in the past - incl making a number of our sanctuary banners.

The people of **Vancouver** - reeling from deadly violence at festival.

Ongoing 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.

Randy and Karla Beck - healing after recent leg surgery and rehab.

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.

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

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

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.

LAST WEEK 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).

TODAY 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).

THE POINT

God is present in the midst of disagreement, fear, and danger.

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

Scholars believe that the same person authored the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts. There are many similarities between the two books, and they are considered to be companion books. The Gospel of Luke tells the story of Jesus' life and the disciples' time with Jesus, while the Book of Acts tells the story of those disciples as they start the early church empowered by the Holy Spirit.

PRACTICE: Worship

Just as we do, the early Christians faced conflict over priorities. The disciples resolved the issue by focusing on the strengths and gifts of the people not the conflict. Families also face conflict. When your family encounters a conflict this week, stop and pray for the people involved. Even if you believe that the conflict is someone else's fault, thank God for the other person. Ask God to help you be understanding and to do God's will.

STORY SUMMARY

There is a conflict within the new church: is it more important to teach outsiders about Jesus or to serve community members in need? To solve this conflict, some of the disciples go out to teach and share God's Word, while others stay to serve. The apostles choose persons for the different tasks based on their areas of giftedness.

Because the religious leaders feel threatened, one of those who stayed to serve, Stephen, is stoned for words and ideas that are considered blasphemous, or offensive to God and religion. The crucifixion of Jesus and the stoning of Stephen bring the early church to a dark and dangerous place.

NEXT WEEK in Sunday School

The Holy Spirit directs Philip, another disciple, to continue to spread the good news. Philip encounters an influential person from Ethiopia and teaches him about Jesus (Acts 8:26-39).

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: Acts 6:1-7:2a, 44-60

The early church was faced with conflicting priorities. How did the disciples solve this conflict?

MONDAY: Acts 2:43-47

The disciples were living together, sharing their possessions, giving away proceeds. What would it be like to live this way in the world today?

TUESDAY: Acts 5:12-16

The apostles continue to perform miracles, and the church grows. How does God continue to heal people today?

WEDNESDAY: Acts 5:17-32

Suddenly, the tide turn and the religious leaders are filled with jealousy and put the apostles in prison. If you were in the apostles' situation what would you do?

THURSDAY: Acts 6:8-15

Religious leaders decide Stephen must be stopped. Why were some people, especially these religious leaders, so afraid of what the disciples are doing?

FRIDAY: Acts 7:1-43

Stephen is given the opportunity to speak his own defense before the religious leaders. Why do you think Stephen chose to emphasize what the leaders already knew?

SATURDAY: Acts 8:4-25

Phillip travels to Samaria to continue to spread the gospel message. What is the difference between the magic that Simon is performing and the miracles Phillip is doing?