



PARKWAY
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



www.parkwayucc.org

May 18, 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

2841 North Ballas Road | St. Louis, MO 63131 | 314-872-9330 [p] | 314-872-9014 [f]
parkwayucc.org | contact@parkwayucc.org

Lana Biondo, *President of the Church Council* [puccpresident@parkwayucc.org]

Kevin Cameron, *Pastor* [kevin@parkwayucc.org]

Gabriel Requadt, *Christian Education & Admin Support; Licensed Minister*
[gabriel@parkwayucc.org]

Amy Freeman, *Organist* [amy@parkwayucc.org]

Mona Smith Herberg, *Website and Graphic Design* [mona@parkwayucc.org]

Kathy Ferrell, *Building and Scheduling* [kathy@parkwayucc.org]

John Dwyer, *Treasurer* [treasurer@parkwayucc.org]

Dawn Friedmann, *Bookkeeper* [dawn@parkwayucc.org]

Julie Connors and Becca Palmgren, *Nursery* [juliestl1992@yahoo.com]

Kim Livengood, *Church Historian* [historian@parkwayucc.org]

Joyce Ruiz, *Alzheimer's Assn Faith Outreach Ambassador* [JoyceRuiz7@gmail.com]

Polly Rutherford, *Environmental Justice/Eco Stewards* [pollyrutherford@gmail.com]

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 Deb Carter.

Flowers given by John and Joyce Ruiz in celebration of their anniversary.

Treats after worship provided by Kari Borgmann.

If you would like to volunteer for any of these serving opportunities or join the corresponding group, please scan the QR code and click on the **Serving Opportunities Calendar**. Thanks!



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

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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

5/18 Felix Waite

5/21 Thomas Clifford

5/21 Elisabeth Doty

5/21 Kurt Oehler

Anniversaries

5/18 Meera & Roy Williams

5/19 John & Joyce Ruiz

5/20 David & Jessica Gwyn

5/20 Kim & Ross Livengood

5/24 Andrea & Steve Barnes

5th Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 18, 2025 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & YouTube Live

Prelude *Holy God, We Praise Your Name*

Welcome Let us know you are here!

Meditation Therefore I have reached the decision that we should not trouble those who are turning to God. —Acts 15:19

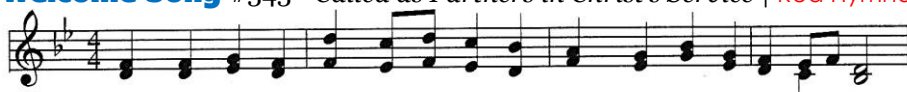
Passing the Peace of Christ

“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 #343—*Called as Partners in Christ's Service* | Red Hymnal



1. Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, Called to min-is-tries of grace,
2. Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
3. Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, In a small or glob-al sense,
4. So God grant us for to-mor-row Ways to or-der hu-man life



We re-pond with deep com-mit-ment Fresh new lines of faith to trace.
Let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, Rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.
Help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, Break-ing down each wall or fence.
That sur-round each per-son's sor-row With a calm that con-quers strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, Side by side and friend with friend,
Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, All God's peo-ple, young and old,
Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, Words of chal-lenge, said with care,
Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, Our com-pas-sion to in-crease,



E-equal part-ners in our car-ing To ful-fill God's cho-sen end.
Blend-ing hu-man skills to-gether Gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.
Bring new power and strength for ac-tion, Make us col-leagues, free and fair.
Mes-sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing Hope and con-fi-dence and peace.

Scripture Acts 15:1-11 | Common English Bible—CEB

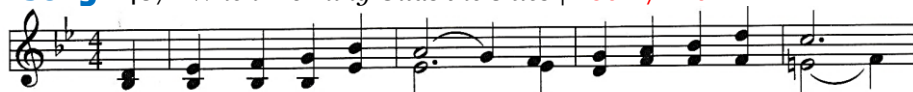
Some people came down from Judea teaching the family of believers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom we’ve received from Moses, you can’t be saved.” Paul and Barnabas took sides against these Judeans and argued strongly against their position. The church at Antioch appointed Paul, Barnabas, and several others from Antioch to go up to Jerusalem to set this question before the apostles and the elders. The church sent this delegation on their way. They traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria, telling stories about the conversion of the Gentiles to everyone. Their reports thrilled the brothers and sisters. When they arrived in Jerusalem, the church, the apostles, and the elders all welcomed them. They gave a full report of what God had accomplished through their activity. Some believers from among the Pharisees stood up and claimed, “The Gentiles must be circumcised. They must be required to keep the Law from Moses.”

The apostles and the elders gathered to consider this matter. After much debate, Peter stood and addressed them, “Fellow believers, you know that, early on, God chose me from among you as the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the word of the gospel and come to believe. God, who knows people’s deepest thoughts and desires, confirmed this by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us. He made no distinction between us and them, but purified their deepest thoughts and desires through faith. Why then are you now challenging God by placing a burden on the shoulders of these disciples that neither we nor our ancestors could bear? On the contrary, we believe that we and they are saved in the same way, by the grace of the Lord Jesus.”

*Call to Worship

- One: More than kind or charitable, or even humane, this Love that calls us takes on flesh and bone and vulnerability.
- Many: **We gather here to practice Love’s solidarity, rising up in the valleys and shadows of death.**
- One: More than nice, or agreeable, or even polite, this Love that forms us risks siding with the last and the least.
- Many: **We come together to become Love’s liberation building collective power to resist injustice.**
- One: More than tolerant or accepting, or even affirming, this Love that guides us opens to new stories of harm and new visions of flourishing.
- Many: **We join together to embody Love’s accountability laying down our defenses to grow beyond the edges of our knowing.**
- One: More than peaceful or unifying, or even friendly, this Love that compels us dares to imagine beyond empire.
- Many: **We worship to remember Love’s future, praying, praising, and protesting until Love’s kingdom comes.**
- All: **So, let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.**

***Song** #487—*When Morning Gilds the Skies* | Red Hymnal



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**

Loving God, we gather as a diverse community, grateful for the opportunities for unity, where differences can be embraced in the spirit of love and understanding. Help us to create a space where every voice is heard, every person is valued, and the barriers that divide us are broken down. May we celebrate our diversity as a reflection of Your image, and may Your inclusive love guide us to live in harmony with one another, united in purpose and grace. In Your name, we pray. 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 is Where Children Belong*



This, this is where chil-dren be-long, wel-comed as part of the
wor-ship-ing throng. Wa-ter, God's Word, bread and
cup, prayer, and song: This is where chil-dren be-long.

Scripture Acts 15:12-19 | New Revised Standard Version—NRSV

The whole assembly kept silence, and listened to Barnabas and Paul as they told of all the signs and wonders that God had done through them among the Gentiles. After they finished speaking, James replied, “My brothers, listen to me. Simeon has related how God first looked favorably on the Gentiles, to take from among them a people for his name. This agrees with the words of the prophets, as it is written,

*‘After this I will return,
and I will rebuild the dwelling of David, which has fallen;
from its ruins I will rebuild it,
and I will set it up,
so that all other peoples may seek the Lord—
even all the Gentiles over whom my name has been called.
Thus says the Lord, who has been making these things
known from long ago.’*

Therefore, I have reached the decision that we should not trouble those Gentiles who are turning to God.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon

*Affirmation of Faith UCC Statement of Faith

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared

through prophets and apostles. In Jesus Christ, the man of

Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself. You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,

creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races. You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory. You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

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

Mission Moment Habitat for Humanity

Tom McKenzie

Offering Interlude *Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Let the Holy Anthem Rise*

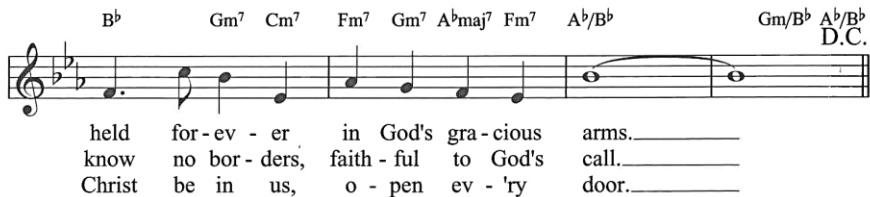
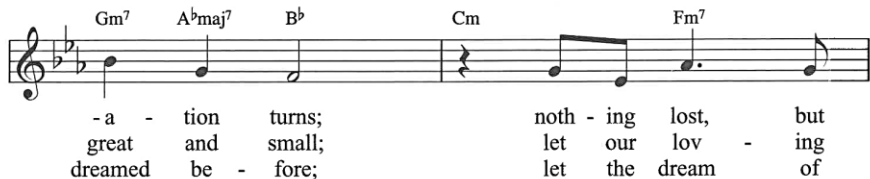
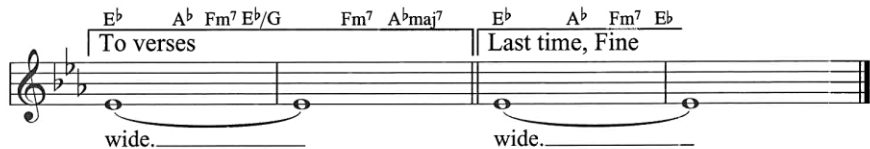
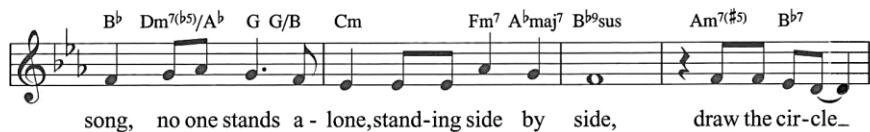
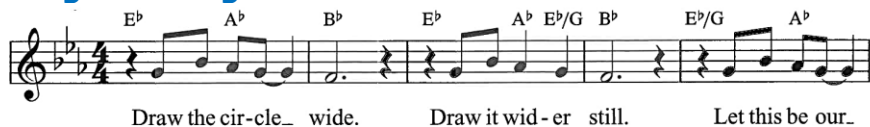
***Response** Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Christ, all creatures here below
Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter
One God, Triune, whom we adore.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Gracious God, we offer these gifts to You with thankful hearts, recognizing that all we have comes from Your hands. We dedicate these offerings to Your service, asking that You use them to spread Your love, bring hope to the hurting, and further Your vision for the world. Bless both the gifts and the givers, and help us to live with open hearts, trusting You to provide all that we need. May Your will be done through these offerings, and may Your name be glorified. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

*Song of Parting *Draw the Circle Wide*



*Benediction

God's peace go with you into the worlds in which you live; be nurtured by the time of gathering, be faithful in the time apart. Love and serve each other in the name of the faithful God, who calls us to be God's people; and the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter, be with us always. Amen.

*God's Light Goes Forth

*Music for Going Forth *O Speak To Me That I May Speak*

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 [@parkwayuccsfl](#). 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

"Why We Can't Understand the Brain Without Sleep," by Prof.

Keith Hengen, Washington University.

Sunday, May 18 | 11:115am | Heritage Room

Dr. Keith Hengen, Assistant Professor of Neuroscience at Washington University, will be presenting his fascinating research on the brain's remarkable balance of stability and power. His work delves into the mathematical principles that govern complex brain functions, offering insights into both the brain's evolutionary development and its susceptibility to neurodegenerative diseases. At the forefront of this groundbreaking research is the **Hengen Lab**, a vibrant team made up of physicists, chemists, computer scientists, physiologists, and even a practicing neurologist—along with a talented group of young students passionate about neuroscience.

Keith, originally from Concord, NH, earned his BA from Bates College, his PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and completed his postdoctoral work at Brandeis University. When he's not immersed in the world of neuroscience, you'll find him rock climbing, mountain biking, and spending time with his family—his wife and three children.

Keith will begin with a clear and engaging introduction to how brains and neurons function, followed by an accessible journey through his lab's central hypothesis: that **sleep** is the key to understanding brain function, development, and disease. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to hear from one of the leading minds in neuroscience!

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

Congratulations Class of 2025 - TODAY

We are excited to announce a special celebration honoring our 2025 graduates! Join us after worship today 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! *"Commit to God whatever you do, and God will establish your plans."* - Proverbs 16:3

Spring Family Friendship Potluck - TODAY

For families with children, you are invited to a Friendship Potluck **TODAY**. 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.

Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue – May 20

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

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!

Upcoming dates:

Monday, June 16 at 2pm;

Wednesday, July 16 at 10am;

Friday, August 22 at 2pm;

Wednesday, September 24 at 2pm

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

Meet Up With the PUC Adventurers at Session Taco

Thursday, May 22 | 11:15am | Town and Country, MO

Would you like to meet more PUCers? Meet some old or new Parkway UCC friends as we have lunch at Session Taco in Town and Country on Thursday, May 22nd. We'll meet at the restaurant at 11:15 am and enjoy a meal and conversation. This month is a busy one for many, so we will have lunch only and in June we will once again have an outing and then lunch after. We look forward to seeing you! Please RSVP to Jackie Eiffert so that the restaurant knows how many of us to be prepared for at jeiffert2@gmail.com

AWOL - 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 cfbum@charter.net

Tuesday Evening Dialogue – May 27

Tuesday, May 27 | 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 discuss this book in one final session on 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.

May Eco Steward Announcement: SAVE THE DATE

Please join us on **Sunday, June 29** at 11:15am in the Heritage Room for a free screening of the Microplastic Madness film documenting a two-year journey of 4th and 5th grader students at Public School 15 in Brooklyn, NY, who addressed plastic and Styrofoam pollution at their school cafeteria. Armed with citizen science research, interviews with scientists, and community engagement, these students were the force behind legislation that banned Styrofoam from all public schools in New York City in 2015. Runtime will be 76 minutes. Lunch will be included!

Presenting the film and leading a discussion will be our guest, Luz Rooney. Luz is the co-founder of Beyond Plastic, for the Missouri/Wisconsin chapter and a Climate Reality Trained Leader.

Please see a link to the documentary's official trailer:

<https://tinyurl.com/tvevup34>

This film is also great for families and students of all levels. Kids, please bring your parents! Look out for registration next month.

Questions? Please contact Polly Rutherford pollyrutherford@gmail.com

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 helping folks write letters.

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. Visit <https://www.bread.org/advocacy-summit/> for the summit schedule, lodging info, and registration. If finances are a barrier, we have some resources to assist, so please reach out to Cynthia.

To get more info or join the team, contact Cynthia Changyit Levin at changyit@icloud.com

Prayer Corner: an opportunity to pray with someone

Wednesday, June 18 | 2-4pm | 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.

Upcoming dates:

Wednesday, June 18 from 2-4pm;

Tuesday, July 29 from 6-8pm;

Saturday, August 16 from 7-9am;

Monday, September 22 from 4-6pm

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

Sunday School Teacher Workshop – You're Invited!

Sunday, June 22 | 11:15am-12:15pm | Room 12 (Children's Ministry Room)

Do you love working with kids or have a heart for teaching? Or maybe you've been looking for a way to get more involved in church life? We'd love to invite you to a **Sunday School Teacher Workshop**.

Whether you're a seasoned teacher or just curious about what it's like, this workshop will give you a behind-the-scenes look at:

- How to prepare and teach a Sunday School lesson
- Ways to connect with and engage children
- Tips for managing classroom behavior
- What kind of time commitment is involved

Plus—free lunch is provided!

Come learn, ask questions, and see if this joyful ministry might be the right fit for you. We hope to see you there! If you're interested in coming, please contact Gabriel Requadt at gabriel@parkwayucc.org

NIGHT AT THE MUNY "Come From Away"

Thursday, June 27 | 7-10:30pm | The Muny Opera, Forest Park

When the world stopped on 9/11, kindness soared in an isolated Canadian town. In *Come From Away*, a breathtaking musical based on a remarkable true story, 38 commercial flights from around the globe are diverted for days to tiny Gander, Newfoundland. Unfazed by the arrival of nearly 7,000 surprise guests, the residents provide light in a dark time, welcoming the stranded travelers with music, an open bar and hope. A Muny premiere!

Join us for a special evening at the Muny in Forest Park to see the award-winning musical ***Come From Away!*** Experience this powerful story of kindness and connection under the stars with fellow Parkway attendees.



Cost: \$13.60 per person

Capacity: Limited to 15 participants

Registration is required. Scan or click QR code

Spots are limited and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Don't miss out on this unforgettable night of theater and community!

Contact Dan Connors for more info at connorsd@aol.com

Loving the Penicos and Eifferts

Saturday, June 28 | 8:30-10:45am | Forest Park - Upper MUNY Parking Lot

Loving the Penicos and Eifferts - The ALS Association Walk! Every 90 minutes a person in this country is diagnosed with ALS and every 90 minutes another person will lose their battle against this disease. ALS occurs throughout the world with no racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic boundaries. That's why we're participating in the Walk to Defeat ALS. To bring hope. To raise awareness. To provide resources and services to families free of charge. To help unlock the mystery of ALS and find the key to treatments and a cure. Will you join us? Please consider walking on our team and/or making a financial contribution in June. Scan or click QR code to register for the walk - "PUCC - Loving the Penicos and Eifferts" is our team name. Registration begins at 8:30am; Walk starts at 10am It is fun to hang out together in the shade before the walk begins.



Parkway UCC Day with Habitat for Humanity

Saturday, July 12 | 7:45am-3:30pm | Metro Saint Louis

Parkway UCC is doing our annual Habitat for Humanity housing building project on Saturday, July 12. Help build a home for a family who would not be able to purchase one otherwise. Clients purchase the home. This is not a giveaway. You can scan or click on QR code to register.



Donate to the STL Habitat for Humanity at

<https://www.habitatstl.org/donate/>. For more info, contact Tom McKenzie 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**

God is doing a new thing—and you're invited to be part of it!

We're serving our city, community, and church through hands-on projects, powerful speakers, and meaningful fun. Stay local. Serve big. Opportunities to do a sleepover at the church. Invite a friend!



Open to all youth (even part-time!) Ends with PUCC Night at Cardinals Game! \$25 registration due by June 1. Click or scan QR code to register.

Questions or need help with cost? Email **gabriel@parkwayucc.org**

ADULTS – WE NEED YOU TOO! Want to help or chaperone? Let us know!

Let's make this a week to remember.

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, May 14, 2025

Celebrations

We are Easter people: *Traveling with Jesus.*

Giving thanks for Pope Francis and Pope Leo - grieving with our Catholic siblings and entering a new expression of the Church.

Concerns

Paige Penico and Family - as they grieve and give thanks for Steve.

<https://www.schrader.com/obituary/stephen-steve-penico>

Cliff Saxton and family - as they grieve and give thanks for Gail.

Visitation 10am, Funeral 11am Mon, May 19 *Peace UCC/ Eden Seminary.*

<https://www.boppchapel.com/obituaries/Gail-Saxton?obId=42339632>

Danny Venverlo - awaiting a kidney transplant (McDougall).

Aunt Carlene Buenger - recovering in rehab (Lori Connors).

Pam and David - divorcing after 55 years of marriage (Akers).

Ongoing chaos and grief in the Middle East.

The continuing war with Ukraine and Russia.

Continuing

Bill and Kathy Hilgeman - as he maneuvers medical challenges.

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

Keith Borgmann - continuing to gain strength after illness and surgery

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

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

Sally Dodge - grieving/giving thanks for her sister & brother-in-law.

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).

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).

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

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

Haack's general practitioner and his wife - healing happening.

Kari Borgmann - her mom celebrated her 101st birthday on 05/11/25.

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, PUCCers 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.

A Love That Lasts

Ellis Miller

Let those who honor the Lord say it: "God's faithful love lasts forever!" - Psalm 118:4 (CEB)

Do you remember the popular 1980s children's book, *Love You Forever*? It traces a mother's love for her son through the lullaby refrain she sings to him throughout his life as she cradles him in her arms. It is a tearjerker for every new parent, or any child that grew up hearing that same lullaby whispered, but it has also become a point of awkwardness and ridicule. A mother climbing a ladder into her grown son's room while he sleeps? Is that love, or is that trespassing?

Thirty years later, a new writer updated the book with an ending that incorporated some healthy boundaries between mother and son. The hope was to mold the eye-rolling elements into a story that allowed readers to stay focused on the love. In this rewrite, the original book has found renewed life and is being shared as a language of parental love for a new generation.

It's not just children's books that call for new images and metaphors, for shifts in how our stories are told or who is telling them, and for adapted language to allow us to understand the message without getting stuck in a mucky part. The particularities of our sacred stories and scripture, hymns and liturgy, can sometimes cause us to stumble, step back, and miss the overarching message they hoped to convey.

When contexts change, so must the stories we tell in order to equip us to first perceive and then proclaim God's love in our lives. The details might bend and shift, but God's love will last forever.

Prayer

May we find God's love in the center of our stories and in the heart of our traditions.

LAST 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).

TODAY In Sunday School

A major disagreement arises in the early church, so the apostles gather together to discuss it and come to an agreement. This is the first church council (Acts 15:1-18).

THE POINT

God's will is revealed in Scripture and conversation with each other.

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

To the Jewish people, Gentiles were “everyone else”—non-Jews who did not follow Jewish practices and often worshipped other gods. As the word of Jesus spread, both Jews and Gentiles believed in Jesus. They both brought histories, traditions, and expectations—which were quite different!

PRACTICE: Fellowship

Fellowship is the church experiencing life together. When conflict arises, fellowship becomes challenging. Learning to address and deal with conflict allows the church community to maintain these relationships. When a conflict arises in your family, at school, or at work this week, practice active listening skills to guide a discussion about the situation. End with prayer for all of the people involved in the conflict.

STORY SUMMARY

The majority of the early believers were Jews. The Scripture they studied was the Jewish Scripture (our Old Testament). Jesus was the Messiah promised to the Jews. So, what do they do when Gentiles—anyone who was not Jewish—wanted to follow Jesus? Do these Gentiles have to become Jewish first and obey the Torah? Some leaders say “Yes.” Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, emphatically says “No.” He argues that all that is necessary was faith in Jesus. The church leaders gather in Jerusalem to discuss this important issue. Peter testifies that God sends the Holy Spirit to Gentiles who believed. The leaders agree that God's grace is enough, and the Jewish rules are not necessary for salvation.

NEXT WEEK In Sunday School

In a letter, Paul calls out Peter for giving into pressure on how to interact with Gentiles. He proclaims that a relationship with God comes from trusting Jesus, not what we do (Galatians 1:13-17; 2:11-21).

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 15:1-18

The council at Jerusalem. What is the difference between a healthy debate and fighting with one another?

MONDAY: Acts 13:1-12

Barnabas and Paul are commissioned. How are you specifically called to do God's work?

TUESDAY: Acts 14:8-20

Paul and Barnabas in Lystra and Debre. How do you think you would have reacted if you had seen Paul and Barnabas heal the man who could not walk?

WEDNESDAY: Acts 15:22-35

The council's letter to gentile believers. How can you encourage people who are struggling or confused about their faith?

THURSDAY: Acts 16:11-15

Paul meets Lydia. How can we show hospitality to those who come to church, especially if they're visitors?

FRIDAY: Acts 17:16-31

Paul teaches about worshipping Jesus. How can we make our faith more important than our worship of things?

SATURDAY: Acts 22:6-21

Paul tells the story of his conversion. Which parts of your story would be the most important in helping other people to learn more about Jesus?