



www.parkwayucc.org July 13, 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

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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 Mark Sableman.

Flowers given by Miliam Family in celebration of the 45th anniversary of Ashley's parents, Gail and David Viehmann.

Treats after worship are Girl Scout Cookies. Please consider signing up!



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: 1800-248-8336

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

7/13 Gabriel Requadt

7/15 Mark Harms

7/17 Cynthia Brown

7/18 Joan Degroote

7/18 Joe Biondo

Anniversaries

7/15 Lisa & Mike Mason

5th Sunday *after* Pentecost

Sunday, July 13, 2025 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & YouTube Live

Prelude Ocean Waves (2025) by MinGry

Welcome Let us know you are here!

Meditation Stay committed to your decisions, but stay flexible in your approach. ~Tony Robbins

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



Scripture Luke 10:25-37 | New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind - and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

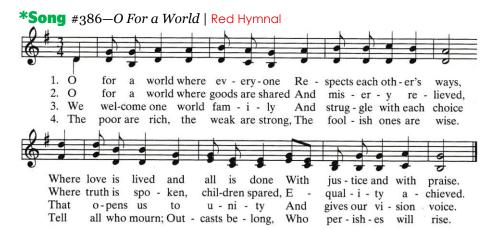
But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy."

Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

*Call to Worship Jacob Nault

	bacob Nature
One:	We come to worship this day, knowing in our own experience
	what it means to struggle.
Many:	We remember times in our lives when we've felt
,	hopeless, yearning for someone to care for us.
One:	In this divided climate that might tempt us to ignore the
	neighbors in our midst, we need only tap into our own humanity.
Many:	Because we know what it means to struggle, we are
	challenged each day to show radical love to our
	neighbors.
One:	Even those who aren't like us.
Many:	Especially those who aren't like us.
One:	May our worship today help us remember times we have been helped
Many:	and how we can become the helpers, and the hope- bearers, in this world.
All:	Let us worship our God together - Creator, Christ and Spirit.



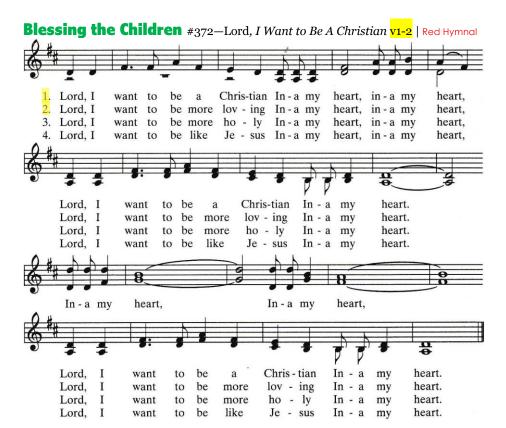
*Opening Prayer

Holy One, you tell us to love our neighbors. We wonder as we wander weekly: Who is our neighbor? Is our neighbor the one who comes asking for cash? the kid who kicked our political signs over or the ones who vandalized our church? the famous politician who calls us derogatory names? the stranger around the corner? the one who leaves needles in the park? the drag queen reading poems in the library? Help us to see and be in relationship with all of our neighbors. 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 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.



Scripture Psalm 82 | Inclusive Language Psalter

God takes a stand in the council of heaven;

God gives judgment in the midst of the gods:

How long will you judge unjustly,

and show favor to the wicked?

Save the weak and the orphan;

defend the humble and needy;

rescue the weak and the poor;

deliver them from the power of the wicked.

They do not know, neither do they understand;

they go about in darkness;

all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

Now I say to you, 'You are gods,

and all of you children of the Most High.

Nevertheless, you shall die like mortals,

and fall like any magistrate.'

Arise, O God, and rule the earth,

for you shall take all nations for your own.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon

A Time of Prayer #2171—Make Me A Channel of Your Peace | Blue Songbook



Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People

Lord's Praver

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.]

Mission Moment Freedom from Hunger Sally Dodge for Isaiah 58

Offering Our Gifts to God



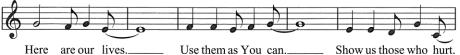
If you have an offering today, please place it in the plate on the stand next to the communion table before the end of the closing hymn. There are offering plates in the Gathering Space outside the sanctuary too. Thank you for your aenerosity.

www.parkwayucc.org/giving

Offering Interlude Toccatina on Will You Come and Follow Me?

*Response Here Are Our Hearts







Show us those in need. Show us



*Prayer of Dedication Jacob Nault

God of love, we give these gifts back to you with humility, remembering times when we've needed help in our own lives. Guide us into using our gifts to love others as we needed to be loved. Amen.



through my sight and touch and sound in you and you Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you

and

*Benediction

*God's Light Goes Forth

ad - mit

to what

I

mean in you and you

in

in

in

me?"

me?"

me.

^{*}Music for Going Forth They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

Announcements

Please use the form at **www.parkwayucc.org/communications** for all announcements for our media. Bulletin and eNews deadline: noon Monday.

Our Communications Team is very active and is exploring all kinds of avenues. Please subscribe to our YouTube Channel today. Our YouTube Channel is **@parkwayuccstl** 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**

NURSERY HIRING NOTICE

While it is our PUCC practice not to hire church members as staff, please feel free to pass this job posting along to others:

We're hiring two Childcare Providers!

Parkway UCC, a progressive, joyful and social justice minded congregation, is looking for warm, responsible, and energetic Childcare Providers on Sunday mornings from 8:50am-12:20pm. We offer childcare for our little ones (ages 0-3) during 10am worship and support families of children through 5th grade so they can fully participate in the life of the church before and after worship.

Must be 18+, experienced with children, CPR certified (or willing to be), and able to pass a background check.

Please submit a cover letter and resume to employment@parkwayucc.org

Speaker Series Occasional opportunities after worship at 11:15am "Our St. Louis German Heritage," by Historian Christian Naffziger. TODAY | 11:15am | Heritage Room

Christian Naffziger is a researcher in the St. Louis archives of the Recorder of Deeds. For the last fifteen years, he has turned his scholarly research to the study of the history and environment of the city of St. Louis, and the Midwest, with a particular interest in the development of the German immigrants that came to America. Christian will explore with us how German culture has made a lasting impact on the city and different aspects of German-American life in St. Louis, including churches like Parkway, industries, buildings and people.

"Artificial Intelligence ("AI") Defined and Demystified," by Richard Losciale.

Sunday, July 20 | 11:15am | Heritage Room

Richard Losciale, a Certified Senior Advisor, will present an enlightening journey into the expansive realm of AI. In his immersive class, Richard will explore AI's fundamental principles, mechanisms, and its vast potential for the future. Prepare for a comprehensive exploration of the rapidly evolving world of AI and its multifaceted effects on our future.

Any questions or comments about programming, please visit with Richard Scherrer; any complaints, take it up with a member of his staff. For questions, kindly contact Richard Scherrer at **90fivetpr@gmail.com**

Tuesday Evening Dialogue—Off for Summer

TED is on summer break. We will be back on schedule on August 12. For questions, please contact Helen Race at **raceh@att.net.**

Showing of Sally

TODAY | 6:15pm | Heritage Room

The ONA Team presents a showing of the documentary, *Sally*. The film from National Geographic tells the story of Sally Ride, the first American woman to blast off into space. But beneath her unflappable composure, she carried a secret. Revealing the romance and sacrifices of their 27 years together, Sally's life partner, Tam O'Shaughnessy, tells the full story of this complicated and iconic astronaut for the first time. We close out our Pride observance for 2025 with this award-winning documentary. Popcorn and other snacks will be part of the fun, so come with a friend (or two)! For more info contact Debbie Reinhardt at **deborahreinhardt@att.net**

Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue - July 15

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 **July 15** for discussion of the book *That Librarian: The Fight Against Book Banning in America*. 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.

Small town librarian Amanda Jones cherishes how books affirm young people's identities. So in 2022, when a local hearing about "book content" arose amid nationwide calls to ban LGBTQ+ and minority stories, she spoke out to protect her community's shelves. Days later, her nightmare began—and it's still unfolding.

Mapping the book banning crisis occurring all across the nation, *That Librarian* draws the battle lines in the war against equity and inclusion, calling book lovers everywhere to rise in defense of our readers. (From Amazon)

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

Gabriel Away at General Synod Digging Deep

Gabriel Requadt is at UCC General Synod 35! He is gone July 11-15 in Kansas City, but need you not worry. You will have your Christian Ed Director & Administrative Support back in the office on July 16, filled with the Spirit! Wish him well as he represents our church and learns more about our beloved denomination.

Coffee and Conversation at Panera

Wednesday, July 16 | 10am | Panera on Manchester Road in Des Peres Join us for a beverage and sweet treat. Come connect! No need to RSVP - just show up!

Upcoming dates:

Friday, August 22 at 2pm;

Wednesday, September 24 at 2pm

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

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. Opportunity to do a sleepover at the church. Invite a friend!

Open to all youth (even part-time!) Ends with PUCC Night at Cardinals Game! The RSVP date to register has passed, but you're welcome to email **gabriel@parkwayucc.org** if you're interested in your child attending.

ADULTS – WE NEED YOU TOO! Want to help or chaperone? Let us know! Let's make this a week to remember.

PUCC Night at the Cardinals

Thursday, July 24 | 6:45pm | Busch Stadium Join Us for a Cardinals Game! As a fun endcap to our Youth Mission Experience week, we're inviting the congregation to join us for a **FREE** St. Louis Cardinals game vs. the San Diego Padres!



You can pick up your ticket on Sunday, or arrange with staff to come during the week.

Cheer on the Cardinals, share fellowship, and celebrate the incredible work our youth have done. There is just **1 ticket** remaining, so scan or click QR code to reserve yours *today*.

Let's play ball together! (note: if you're a part of the youth mission experience and you've already confirmed with Gabriel that you or your kids are going, you don't need to get another ticket.) For more info, contact Gabriel at **gabriel@parkwayucc.org**

Summer Opportunity with Isaiah 58 Back to School Fair

Saturday, July 26 | 10am-12:30pm | 2149 S. Grand Blvd, Saint Louis, MO 63104 Adults and youth are invited to host activities for children and youth for the Isaiah 58 Back to School Fair. Bring your own activity or use one from the Fair organizers. Students look forward to this day of fun and receive a backpack with gifts of school supplies for the upcoming school year 2025. Help make this day memorable for students in our neighborhoods. Click or scan QR code to register for free!

Also, Parkway UCC is being asked to donate 130 boxes of 12-count colored pencils for school year 2026. As you are shopping now and through the summer, please pick up boxes of 12-count colored pencils. Walmart is currently offering Crayola color pencils at 97 cents a box if ordered online. Watch for other stores offering school supplies throughout the summer. Please place donations in the blue, marked box located in the lobby. This drive will end Sunday, 31 August.

For more info, email Evelyn Buretta at burettaevelyn@gmail.com

AWOL - Adventurous Women Out Late — Summer 2025

Come build relationships with other PUCCers.

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

Saturday, July 26: A New Expression of Pride & Prejudice: A Musical at the Kirkwood Theater. Join us for AUSTEN'S PRIDE! Jane Austen's most beloved tale is reimagined when the esteemed author begins her own journey of self-discovery. As the stormy romance between Elizabeth Bennet and Fitzwilliam Darcy unfolds in a fresh parrative. Austen gains new insights

Darcy unfolds in a fresh narrative, Austen gains new insights into both her creations and her own identity. AUSTEN'S PRIDE presents Pride and Prejudice as never before, blending wit and wisdom with a gorgeous original score that whisks audiences away to an era rich with passion and longing. Scan or click QR code to register. Cost is \$48.



Question? Contact Carmen Bumgarner at cfbum@charter.net

Prayer Corner an opportunity to pray with someone

Tuesday, July 29 | 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.

Upcoming dates:

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**

July 2025 Alzheimer's News

New Guidance Released for Gold-Standard Imaging Tests to Assist Clinicians has been published by a workgroup convened by the Alzheimer's Association and the Society for Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging. The updated Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC) is designed to help clinicians diagnose and manage patients who have, or are at risk for cognitive decline. Tau PET is a newer imaging technique that detects the presence of tau tangles in the brain, which are linked to the development of dementia. The AUC recommends that amyloid or tau Pet only be used when the results will directly impact patient care, such as determining the cause(s) of cognitive issues and eligibility for treatment, decisions about patient safety, independent living and driving. The AUC includes 17 real-world scenarios in which amyloid or tau PET may be considered as part of a comprehensive clinical assessment by dementia specialists. The strongest evidence for their use includes:

- Assessment and prognosis of people with mild cognitive impairment.
- Assessment of people with dementia when the cause is not clearly known.
- Determining eligibility for treatment with new disease-modifying therapies and monitoring response to these treatments.

For more details on current and future Alzheimer's research, visit **alz.org/Research**. You can learn more by going to **www.alz.org/help-support/resources** or the Alzheimer's Helpline which is accessible 24/7 via 800-272-3900 and staffed by master's level clinicians to assist with crisis situations, decision making, and disease information. Tools and support are also available in Spanish.

Want to learn more about the Alzheimer's Association and what they do here in St. Louis? Visit **www.alz.org** and/or contact PUCC's Faith Outreach Ambassador with the Alzheimer's Association, Joyce Ruiz at **joyceruiz7@gmail.com**

Freedom From Hunger Community-Wide Food Drive

Saturday, August 2 | 10am-12pm | Multiple Locations (see below) Help Isaiah 58 Ministries feed children. Donate food at one of the convenient drop-off locations! Your support helps Isiah 58 Ministries provide healthy, nutritious food to families this summer and through the year.

Collection Sites:

- Southminster Presbyterian Church 10126 East Watson Rd
- Parkway UCC 2841 N Ballas Rd
- Hope UCC 6273 Eichelberger
- Gethsemane Lutheran Church 3600 Hampton Rd
- Afton Christian Church 9626 Tesson Ferry Rd

Requested Food: Peanut butter, beef stew, spinach & greens, and chili.

For more info, email Evelyn Buretta at **burettaevelyn@gmail.com** or Sally Dodge at **s.dodge@hotmail.com**

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, July 9, 2025

Celebrations

Ellie Svenson - transitioning to *Mason Pointe* (see info next column). **UCC General Synod** from July 11-15 in Kansas City - generalsynod.org

Concerns

Kari and Keith Borgmann - grieving/giving thanks for her mother.

Mona Herberg & Family - grieving/giving thanks for her brother Kurt
Bill and Kathy Hilgeman - his medical challenges; her new knee 7-10.

Rick - undergoing multiples treatments for cancer (Laura Waite's dad).

Elaine - cancer treatment starting this week (Melanie Muchnick's mom).

Family/friends of Leslie Neide - mourning her (Brueggemann).

McKenzie family as they grieve the grandson of Jim (Tom's brother).

The families of Camp Mystic (including the Feruzzos) and all the people in Texas overwhelmed with the fatal flooding (McMillon).

Derek - residential treatment for substance addiction (Akers).

Ongoing chaos and grief in the Middle East.

The continuing war with Ukraine and Russia.

Our StL neighbors after the tornado in May.

Continuing

John & Dottie Dwyer - gaining strength after his heart procedure. **Peggy & Jack Sieber -** as she continues to heal after knee replacement. Paige Penico and Family - as they grieve and give thanks for Steve. Cathy and Rick Hasler - both in midst of health challenges, treatment Carole Gwyn - ongoing health issues (David's mother). Judy Brueggemann - new health challenges (Brad's mother). **Richard** - treatments for congestive heart failure (Greg Schmelig's dad). Kenton & Teal Blacksten - K's many health challenges due to diabetes **Bob Messey** - serious health concerns (Svenson). **Phil and Amy and daughter B** - as his terminal illness progresses. Mark McKenzie - for healing, clarity, refreshment (Tom's brother). John Ruiz's oldest brother and wife - healing in Cape Girardeau. John & Nancy Tallyn - his heart condition; her recurring leukemia, etc **Danny Venverlo** - awaiting a kidney transplant (McDougall). Pam and David - divorcing after 55 years of marriage (Akers). **Sharon and Chuck** - a variety of health issues (Gerry Rogers' cousins). **Craig Hoffman** - career Navy officer receiving hospice care (Svenson). Haack's doctor and his wife Christine - her ongoing health crisis. Renee Pellegrino & family - as she deals with multiple health issues. **Rebecca Ray** - that her book on suicide prevention will be published. 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 [hirthdate: October 36]

Park, MO 63088 [birthdate: October 26]

Ruth Peace - 10379-D Forest Brooke Ln; StL MO 63146; 314-983-025

meadletter222@gmail.com [birthdate: August 8]

Naomi Runtz - 272 N Lindbergh Blvd; StL MO 63141; 314-993-0469

naomiruntz@sbcglobal.net [birthdate: August 30]

Glady Sims - Friendship Village - 15200 Village View Dr, #2418;

Chesterfield, MO 63017; 636-898-8873 [birthdate: July 4]

Ellie Svenson - Mason Pointe - 13190 South Outer Forty Rd, #2213;

Town and Country, MO 63017; 314-323-7194 [birthdate: June 19]

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.

Resolutions for General Synod 35

The 35th Biennial General Synod of our United Church of Christ is happening now July 11-15, 2025 in Kansas City, Missouri. Here is a list of the resolutions that will be taken up by delegates representative of the whole church:

- Motion of Penn West, Penn Central, Pennsylvania Southeast, and Penn Northeast Conferences to Join Together to Form the Keystone Conference
- Resolution on Full Communion Relationship Between the United Church of Christ and Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland
- Resolution on Full Communion Relationship Between the United Church of Christ and Iglesia Evangélica Unida de Puerto Rico
- The Small Town and Rural Coalition of the United Church of Christ Requests to Be Recognized as a Formal Group
- A Declaration of Support for Philippine Human Rights
- Faithful Stewardship of Our Whole Lives and Advocacy for Comprehensive Sexuality Education in Faith Communities Through Interfaith Collaboration
- Recognition of the Continually-Evolving Language of Mental Health
- A Response to Christian Persecution in India
- Responding to the Federal Government's Attack on Immigrants, Migrants, and Refugees
- Calling The United Church of Christ to Oppose the 2025 Immigration Rollbacks and Support Immigrants, Refugees, and Pacific Island Communities, while Amplifying Antiracist Work On Behalf of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color in Response to the Current Socio-Political Backlash
- In Support of Restoration of Full Funding for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- In Support of Restoration of Full Funding and Autonomy for the *Voice of America*
- Declaration for an End to Genocide in Palestine

To get a full summary of the resolutions, rationales and scriptural underpinnings, click or scan the QR code.



UCC General Synod Resolutions Process Overview

The General Synod resolution process is the primary way UCC members and bodies raise issues for denominational awareness and change. Though details have evolved, it remains the most direct path to shaping church policy in alignment with God's vision.

Resolutions are drafted by UCC members with support from General Synod staff and reviewed by the Resolution Review Team for content, grammar, and alignment with the Standing Rules. Each resolution must have a "submitting body" (e.g., a Conference, Association, group of delegates, or the UCC Board) that formally submits it to General Synod.

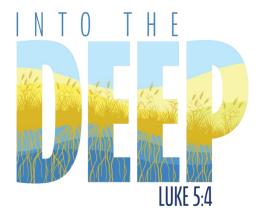
After submission, the Committee on Disposition determines how the resolution will be handled—typically assigning it to a Synod Committee, though other options include direct plenary debate, referral to the UCC Board, or rejection for procedural reasons.

Synod Committees meet during Synod to study, edit, and make recommendations on their assigned resolution. They may also propose substitute resolutions. Final decisions are made during plenary sessions, where delegates debate, amend, and vote. A minority resolution may be submitted if significant dissent remains.

Many resolutions are followed by an Implementation Conversation, a space for discussion and collaboration on how to live out the resolution's intent in real-world settings.

We hope this overview of the resolution process is helpful! For more detailed information please read the General Synod Standing Rules, which offers a complete outline of the entire process.

Find all things General Synod at https://generalsynod.org/ The theme this Synod is



When Mountains Won't Move

Vicki Kemper

Jesus said to them... "For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you." - Matthew 17:20-21 (NRSV)

We had plenty of faith, boatloads of hope, deep wells of love, and landlinegenerated phone trees that make modern online systems look lame. And still, the cancer did not move. It retreated for a time—but then it returned, stronger than ever. Our dear friend died and, for some, their faith died with her.

Perhaps you, too, have encountered mountains that no amount of faith could move. Maybe you're weary from banging your head against what seems impossible.

Does that mean faith is worthless? Does it mean Jesus was clueless? Does it mean we're doing faith wrong?

It's easy to fall into that dangerous way of thinking. A longtime ordained minister still remembers the colleagues who told him his three-year-old daughter might have survived leukemia if only he had prayed harder.

But there is faith—and then there's magical thinking. There are mountains—which will, over many eons, become as moving molehills—and then there are glaciers, whose melting we observe with anxious hearts. There are miracles of all shapes, sizes, and timeframes—and then there's the way things work (or don't) most of the time.

We may hope against hope that things will work out. Faith is trusting that, even if they don't, God's love will carry us through somehow. Faith is realizing that, sometimes, the mountain that needs moving is us.

<u>Prayer</u>

When mountains won't move, give me faith enough to see how I can. When mountains won't move, give me courage enough to climb them.

Scan or click here for more UCC Daily Devotionals!

