



PARKWAY  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



[www.parkwayucc.org](http://www.parkwayucc.org)

August 17, 2025

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## Limitless Love | Courageous Action | Spirited Inquiry

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### 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 Kari Borgmann.

**Flowers** given by Cindy Wessel in memory of her son Tyler on the anniversary of his death, August 13.

**Treats after worship** provided by Evelyn Buretta.



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](http://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](http://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

8/17 Jonathan Williams

8/19 Gerre Langton

8/19 Tom Tupper

8/21 Nancy Masterson

8/21 Cassie Schulenburg

8/23 Todd Schowalter

8/23 David Schatz

8/23 Sally Ann Dodge

## Anniversaries

8/20 Jack & Peggy Sieber

8/23 April & Jameson Tallyn

# 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday *after* Pentecost

Sunday, August 17, 2025 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & YouTube Live

**Prelude** "River Lullaby" from *Prince of Egypt* by Stephen Schwartz and Hans Zimmer

**Welcome** Let us know you are here!

**Meditation** In the hug, there is hope. Two hearts so close, nothing but two sets of skin and a few ribs between them, as they dare to let each other in. When it's held long enough, and the trembling turns to tears, you sometimes feel the flow of all the passing years. As your breaths find their rhythm, may your hearts synchronize; may you find a peace to rest, and then a strength to rise. This is, after all, the very definition of love. ~Todd Jenkins

## 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** #150—Come, Christians, Join to Sing | Red Hymnal



1. Come, Chris-tians, join to sing Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
2. Come, lift your hearts on high; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
3. Praise yet our Christ a - gain; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!



Loud praise to Christ our King; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!  
Let prais - es fill the sky; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!  
Life shall not end the strain; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!



Let all, with heart and voice, Be - fore His throne re - joice;  
He is our guide and friend; To us He'll con - de - scend;  
On heav-en's bliss - ful shore His good - ness we'll a - dore,



Praise is His gra-cious choice; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!  
His love shall nev - er end; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!  
Sing - ing for - ev - er - more, "Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!"

**Scripture** Hebrews 11:29-12:2 | Common English Bible

By faith they crossed the Red Sea as if they were on dry land, but when the Egyptians tried it, they were drowned.

By faith Jericho’s walls fell after the people marched around them for seven days.

By faith Rahab the prostitute wasn’t killed with the disobedient because she welcomed the spies in peace.

What more can I say? I would run out of time if I told you about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets. Through faith they conquered kingdoms, brought about justice, realized promises, shut the mouths of lions, put out raging fires, escaped from the edge of the sword, found strength in weakness, were mighty in war, and routed foreign armies. Women received back their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured and refused to be released so they could gain a better resurrection. But others experienced public shame by being taunted and whipped; they were even put in chains and in prison. They were stoned to death, they were cut in two, and they died by being murdered with swords. They went around wearing the skins of sheep and goats, needy, oppressed, and mistreated. The world didn’t deserve them. They wandered around in deserts, mountains, caves, and holes in the ground.

All these people didn’t receive what was promised, though they were given approval for their faith. God provided something better for us so they wouldn’t be made perfect without us.

So then, with endurance, let’s also run the race that is laid out in front of us, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us. Let’s throw off any extra baggage, get rid of the sin that trips us up, and fix our eyes on Jesus, faith’s pioneer and perfecter. He endured the cross, ignoring the shame, for the sake of the joy that was laid out in front of him, and sat down at the right side of God’s throne.

**\*Call to Worship**

One:	As we move from one week to the next ...
Many:	<b>We do not know what this week will bring.</b>
One:	But we trust the One who walks beside us.
Many:	<b>We are not promised certainty...</b>
One:	But we are promised presence.
Many:	<b>We gather trusting that we are never alone.</b>
One:	We come together looking to Jesus to guide us.
Many:	<b>We are woven together by the ever-present Spirit.</b>
One:	And we lean into the God who holds tomorrow - and holds us.
All:	<b>Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.</b>

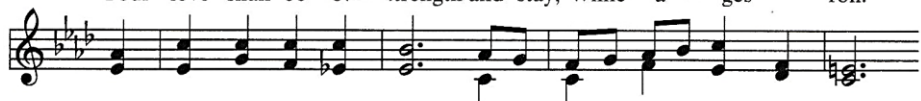
**\*Song** #488—*The God of Abraham Praise* | Red Hymnal



1. The God of A-braham praise, Who reigns en-throned a - bove;
2. Your spir - it still flows free, High surg - ing where it will;
3. You have e - ter - nal life Im - plant - ed in the soul;



The an - cient of e - ter - nal days, The God of love!  
 In proph-et's word You spoke of old And You speak still.  
 Your love shall be our strength and stay, While a - ges roll.



The Lord, the great I Am, By earth and heaven con - fessed,  
 Es - tab - lished is Your law, And change-less it shall stand,  
 We praise You, liv - ing God! We praise Your ho - ly name;



We bow be - fore Your ho - ly name, For - ev - er blest.  
 Deep writ up - on the hu - man heart, On sea, or land.  
 The first, the last, be - yond all thought, And still the same!

**\*Opening Prayer**

Holy One, You are the God of Abraham and Sarah, of Hagar and Ishmael, of Isaac and Rebekah, of Jacob, Leah, and Rachel - and of all who have sought You through the ages. You are the God of prophets and dreamers, liberators and healers, justice-makers and peace-bringers. You are the God of the wanderer and the homecoming, the God of those who sing and those who sigh. We gather in awe of Your steadfast love - a love that calls each generation to walk in faith, to act with courage, and to live with hope. Come among us now, O God of every tribe and tongue, that we may lift our hearts in gratitude and our lives in service to Your call to justice. Amen.

**\*Response** *Spirit of the Living God*

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 5<sup>th</sup> grade will then go to Room 12, and youth from 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> 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** *Weave*  
**Weave, weave, weave us together**  
**Weave us together in unity and love,**  
**Weave, weave, weave us together**  
**Weave us together, together in love.**

**Scripture** Psalm 80:8-19 | CEB  
You brought a vine out of Egypt.  
You drove out the nations and planted it.  
You cleared the ground for it;  
then it planted its roots deep, filling the land.  
The mountains were covered by its shade;  
the mighty cedars were covered by its branches.  
It sent its branches all the way to the sea;  
its shoots went all the way to the Euphrates River.  
So why have you now torn down its walls  
so that all who come along can pluck its fruit,  
so that any boar from the forest can tear it up,  
so that the bugs can feed on it?  
Please come back, God of heavenly forces!  
Look down from heaven and perceive it!  
Attend to this vine,  
this root that you planted with your strong hand,  
this son whom you secured as your very own.  
It is burned with fire. It is chopped down.  
They die at the rebuke coming from you.  
Let your hand be with the one on your right side—  
with the one whom you secured as your own—  
then we will not turn away from you!  
Revive us so that we can call on your name.  
Restore us, Lord God of heavenly forces!  
Make your face shine so that we can be saved!

**Moment of Silent Reflection**

**Sermon**



## A Time of Prayer #2057—Be Still and Know That I Am God | Blue Songbook



## 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](http://www.parkwayucc.org/giving)

### Offering Interlude *Go Down Moses* with solo vocalist Bill Haack

#### \*Response *Doxology*

**Praise God for love we all may share.  
Praise God for beauty everywhere.  
Praise God for hope of good to be.  
Praise God for truth that makes us free.**

#### \*Prayer of Dedication

**God of the ages and of this very moment, we give thanks for those who came before us - those whose faith built bridges over troubled waters, whose courage blazed trails where none existed, whose love endured when the world turned away. May the gifts we offer today become part of that same story of hope. Strengthen us, so that like our ancestors in faith, we may run with perseverance. When we grow weary, remind us that we are not alone - surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, carried by your Spirit, and led always by Jesus, the One who is the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. Amen.**



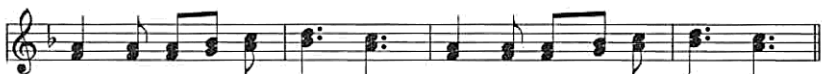
**\*Song of Parting** #319—*Sing Them Over Again to Me (Wonderful Words of Life)* | New Century Hymnal



1 Sing them o - ver a - gain to me, won - der - ful words of life;  
 2 Christ, the bless - ed one, gives to all won - der - ful words of life;  
 3 Sweet - ly ech - o the gos - pel call, won - der - ful words of life;



let me more of their beau - ty see, won - der - ful words of life;  
 sin - ner, wake to the lov - ing call, won - der - ful words of life;  
 of - fer par - don and peace to all, won - der - ful words of life;



Words of life and beau - ty teach me faith and du - ty.  
 All so free - ly giv - en, our sure hope of heav - en.  
 Je - sus, on - ly Sav - ior, keep me with you for - ev - er.

*Refrain*



Beau - ti - ful words, won - der - ful words, won - der - ful words of life.



Beau - ti - ful words, won - der - ful words, won - der - ful words of life.

**\*Benediction**

**\*God's Light Goes Forth**

**\*Music for Going Forth** *Back To School Rag* by Amy Freeman

**Prayer Partner Before and After Worship this Sunday**

PUCer Lynn Mark is available in the front left corner of the sanctuary before and after worship this Sunday to pray confidentially with individuals. She is a trained prayer chaplain. She will call on the presence of God and help create a safe spiritual space. Lynn will listen to you as you tell her a bit about your prayer request. She will offer an affirmative prayer out loud, reminding you of your inner strengths rather than ask God for a specific outcome. She will pray that you are guided by God's infinite love, presence and support... and that any joy or gratitude will be multiplied and any fear or doubt will be transformed into peace and confidence.

# Announcements

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

## **Speaker Series Occasional opportunities after worship at 11:15am** **The Speakers Series Presents: "Fifty Years of Living My Dream," by St. Louis artist Tim Eberhardt.**

TODAY | 11:15am | Heritage Room

Tim Eberhardt is a South St. Louis artist whose 50 years of making art include paintings, photographs, pottery, sculpture, jewelry, and what he calls hyper-realistic figurative sculptures that speak or act when people approach. Join us for this speakers series program as we honor Tim's legacy to creative and diverse art.

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](mailto:90fivetpr@gmail.com)

## **Coffee and Conversation at Panera**

Friday, August 22 | 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:

Wednesday, September 24 at 2pm

Questions? Contact [kevin@parkwayucc.org](mailto:kevin@parkwayucc.org); 314-872-9330

## **Festival of Nation Volunteer Opportunity**

Aug. 23-24 | Tower Grove Park

The 2025 Festival of Nations is less than one month away and they need your help! Click or scan QR code to sign-up, or you can go to the webpage at [iistl.org/volunteer](http://iistl.org/volunteer) -> Volunteer Opportunities to see the opportunities for the festival. If you are interested, please help support the International Institute by signing up for one or more of the available volunteer shifts. Your support is truly appreciated, and they couldn't pull-off a successful Festival without the help of their volunteers... see opportunities below.



They are seeking volunteers for the following roles:

- Set-Up and Tear-Down
- Green Team
- Welcome & Info Tables
- Merchandise Sales
- Honey Sales
- Parking
- Survey Conductors
- And More!

All volunteers will receive a volunteer t-shirt and an invitation to a volunteer orientation. Thank you for helping to make this year's Festival of Nations a successful event!

## **AWOL—Adventurous Women Out Late**

Come build relationships with other PUCers.

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, August 23:** Dinner at Tiger Soup Dumplings. Have you been wanting to try TIGER SOUP DUMPLINGS? Let's try them together! Click or scan QR code to register by **today**.



**Saturday, September 20:** *The Grand Finale* of Downtown Abbey!

We will attend the early afternoon showing at the Marcus Theatre in Des Peres.

Please RSVP by clicking or scanning the QR code so we know how many tickets to purchase.



**Saturday, November 8** from 9:30am-12:00pm

Explore some historical highlights of St Louis architecture and how they changed the area from blighted to monumental. Tour begins at Union Station. Click or scan QR code to register.

**Saturday, December 6** from 2-4pm

Come enjoy live theater with us -- *Emma* the play - based on the novel by Jane Austen at The Rep. Click or scan QR code to register.



Question? Contact Carmen Bumgarner at **cfbum@charter.net**

## **Nico Lang - American Teenager** How Trans Kids Are Surviving Hate and Finding Joy in a Turbulent Era

**Presented by Left Bank Books, Left Bank Books Foundation, & PFLAG Greater St. Louis**

Sunday, August 24 | 4pm | 399 N Euclid Ave, STL, MO

Join Left Bank Books as they welcome Nico Lang, a nonbinary award-winning journalist with over a decade of experience covering the transgender community's fight for equality. They are thrilled to have Nico join them to discuss trans joy! Highly praised, *American Teenager* is a vivid and moving portrait of eight trans and nonbinary teenagers across the country, following their daily triumphs, struggles, and all that encompasses growing up trans in America today. Click or scan QR code to register.



## **Tuesday Evening Dialogue**

2nd and 4th Tuesdays | 6-8pm | Heritage Room

Zoom Meeting ID: 849 4403 9731; Passcode: 792617

Please join us at TED on August 26 for friendship and lively book discussions. We read a variety of books related to social justice, spirituality, different faiths, history, relationships, current events and nature. We also may choose some random books just for fun. Most books take three sessions to complete. Bring a dish to share for the pot luck & join us for our next conversation! Newcomers are always welcome!

For questions, please contact Helen Race at [raceh@att.net](mailto:raceh@att.net).

## **Parkway Inquirers Getting to Know PUCC—and Being Known**

Tuesday, August 26 | 6:30-7:45pm | Heritage Room

Inquirer: someone who wants to know more about Parkway UCC. The next PARKWAY UCC Inquirers' Gathering will be a dessert night Tuesday, August 26 from 6:30-7:45pm in the Heritage Room. Our goals for that evening include:

- Getting to know one another a bit more
- Describing Parkway's worship, outreach, education, leadership, fellowship
- Taking a look at our denomination, the United Church of Christ
- Sharing ideas about the exciting future of Parkway UCC
- Soliciting your thoughts on how we can be a more welcoming and inviting community of faith
- Discussing some key issues of faith
- Answering any of your questions

You will find our time together meaningful and informative. Some churches call this sort of gathering a New Members Class - we do not. While we do know that there are a number of visitors who have expressed interest in becoming members of the church, we do not assume that Inquirers are seeking membership. We just want to be hospitable, get to know you and have the chance to express gratitude for your presence among us.

**\*\*Childcare is available that evening if requested ahead of time. Please let us know if you are planning to be with us! Contact [kevin@parkwayucc.org](mailto:kevin@parkwayucc.org) for more info**

## **Join the PUCC Adventurers for a St. Louis Public Library Tour**

Thursday, August 28 | 10am-2pm | 1301 Olive Street, St. Louis, MO 63103

Meet some Parkway UCC friends as we go on a guided tour of the beautiful, historic St. Louis Public Library. We'll start the guided tour and finish with lunch at a nearby restaurant, TBD. Meet at church at 9:15am for carpooling, or at the library at 10am. Please join us! RSVP to Kris McKenzie, [kmck57@yahoo.com](mailto:kmck57@yahoo.com) by **August 20**.

St. Louis Public Library's Central Library boasts some of the finest examples of Beaux-Arts and Neo-Classical Architecture in the United States. Designed by renowned architect Cass Gilbert and completed in 1912, the structure which occupies a full city block is a historic treasure. Exquisite replicas of features from the Pantheon, Vatican and Michelangelo's Laurentian Library bring the Italian Renaissance to life in the heart of downtown St. Louis. Among the many amazing treasures featured throughout Central Library are the thirty decorative shields bearing the "Printers' Devices" or marks of some of history's most famous printers carved on the building's stone exterior. An extensive \$70 million award-winning renovation of Central Library led by George Nikolajevich with Cannon Design was completed in 2012, and showcases a masterful blend of classical and modern architectural styles while preserving Central Library's unparalleled beauty for generations to come.

## **Summer Opportunity with Isaiah 58 Ministries**

Parkway UCC was asked to donate 130 boxes of 12-count colored pencils for school year 2026. Thanks to our generous congregation, we exceeded our donation goal of colored pencils for Isaiah 58. The staff was pleased to have extra amounts.

Also thanks for the extra attention in donating specific food items for the area-wide Freedom from Hunger project that we participated in a couple of weeks ago. ~**Evelyn Buretta**

## **Respect MO Voters**

Shortly after Labor Day we'll start collecting signatures for Respect MO Voters. It's a cross partisan, volunteer group dedicated to getting an amendment on the MO ballot 11/26. This amendment will prohibit the legislature from undoing the will of the majority of voters, as was done after the 11/24 vote. This was also done in the past regarding puppy mills, clean Missouri, and several other issues the citizens of MO voted for. It was also tried in the 80s when democrats were in the majority. This is why it's cross partisan. Whichever side of the aisle you identify with, the majority will of the people should prevail.

Please stop by our table in the gathering space before or after Sunday services. Take some information about the group, consider joining the movement, and sign the petition. For more info, contact Michelle Singer [mrsinger71@gmail.com](mailto:mrsinger71@gmail.com)

## Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue

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 Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue, TAD, for our next book starting Tuesday, September 2 - *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again* by Rachel Held Evans. Rachel Held Evans was a progressive Christian writer, blogger, and speaker known for challenging conservative evangelical beliefs and advocating for women and LGBTQ+ rights within Christianity. Her writing explored a more inclusive and questioning approach to faith. From the book jacket, "Drawing on the best in recent scholarship and using her well-honed literary expertise, Evans examines some of our favorite Bible stories and possible interpretations, retelling them through memoir, original poetry, short stories, soliloquies, and even a short screenplay. Undaunted by the Bible's most difficult passages, Evans wrestles through the process of doubting, imagining, and debating Scripture's mysteries." Please join us for fellowship and discussion. We'd love to have you! Fellowship starts at 1:45pm and book discussion is from 2-3 pm.

For more info, please contact [jeiffert2@gmail.com](mailto:jeiffert2@gmail.com)

## Fall Friendship Dinners Sign up by September 14

It's time once again to schedule our Fall Friendship Dinners. You can sign up to be both a host and a guest, or just sign up to be a host or a guest. Please also indicate if you are interested in a family-friendly potluck event to be held at the church. There is a sign-up poster in the Gathering Space, or you can sign up using One Church. Please provide your contact information; hosts need to indicate how many guests they can accommodate. The deadline to sign up is **Sunday, September 14**. Scan or click the QR to register.



The Friendship Committee will meet to organize the groups. Dinners are being planned for September, October, or November. IDEAS: host a potluck dinner, meet at a restaurant, or have an appetizer meal. For additional information or to sign up, please contact Kathy Burcham at [kathleenburcham@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kathleenburcham@sbcglobal.net)

## Prayer Corner an opportunity to pray with someone

Monday, September 22 | 4-6pm | 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](mailto:kevin@parkwayucc.org)

## St. Louis Metro Area Crop Hunger Walk

Sunday, September 28 | 2-3pm | 475 E. Lockwood Ave, Webster Groves, MO  
This year's Crop Hunger Walk is at Eden Seminary in lovely Webster Groves. Registration begins at 1:30pm and step-off for the walk is at 2pm. Do not worry if you don't want to walk. You can gather that day, volunteer to help us or join Parkway's team and donate online. Click or scan the QR code to register, or go to **[www.crophungerwalk/saintlouismo.org](http://www.crophungerwalk/saintlouismo.org)** and add Parkway UCC to the upper right search bar. The money raised goes to local partners and around the world through Church World Service. For more info, contact Sue Moellering **[susieqslp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:susieqslp@sbcglobal.net)**



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:cynthianouri@gmail.com)**;  
Barb - **[barbharris@charter.net](mailto:barbharris@charter.net)** or Gabriel - **[gabriel@Parkwayucc.org](mailto:gabriel@Parkwayucc.org)**



## Becoming the Sea Cameron Trimble

There is an old Sufi story about a doll made entirely of salt who wandered the earth searching for meaning. One day, it came upon the vast, shimmering sea. The doll was amazed. *“What are you?”* it asked.

*“I am the sea,”* replied the water.

*“I wish to know what the sea is,”* said the salt doll.

*“Then step into me,”* said the sea.

The doll hesitated—how could it possibly enter without losing itself? But at last it placed one foot into the waves. Immediately, it began to dissolve.

*“What is happening to me?”* the doll cried.

*“You are becoming part of me,”* the sea answered.

The doll stepped deeper, and as it melted away, it finally whispered, *“Now I know what I am.”*

And it was gone.

We are all salt dolls - shaped by our histories, identities, and the stories we carry. We move through life thinking our solidity is what keeps us safe, not realizing that the truest knowing comes not from holding ourselves apart, but from letting go enough to be joined with something greater.

This is the paradox of surrender: the more we dissolve into love, into the Sacred, into the web of life, the more we discover our deepest truth. Surrender is not a soft escape -it is a courageous unbinding from the illusions that we can save ourselves by staying intact.

In these days, the call to dissolve is not only personal - it is collective. The forces of our time would have us believe that isolation is safety, that borders are salvation, that dominance is strength. But we are being summoned to another truth: no wall will save us, no hierarchy will heal us, and no single person or group will find wholeness until we all do. Justice begins in this knowing - that my liberation is bound up with yours, that the same waters carry us all.

To step into that ocean is to risk the undoing of the false divisions that keep some safe at the expense of others. It is to resist the performance of dominance with the practice of belonging. It is to join our voices, our bodies, our resources, our very selves to the work of mending the great tear in the fabric of humanity.

### Reflection Questions:

- Where are you being invited to “step into the sea” and risk your form?
- What boundaries—personal, social, political—might love be asking you to dissolve for the sake of the common good?

### The Courage to Dissolve

Holy Mystery, dissolve my fear. Let the waters of Your love wear away my walls. Make me unafraid to belong fully—to You, to my neighbors, to this aching world. Where I have hardened myself against the cries of the suffering, soften me. Where I have held back my love for fear of losing control, free me. Dissolve my small self into the vastness of Your justice and mercy, until my life becomes one with the sea that holds us a

# Prayer List

Wednesday, August 13, 2025

## Celebrations

**Students, families, teachers, admins, staff** - back to school soon.  
**Gerry & Mike Rogers** - Alvaro is here from Argentina for semester.

## Concerns

**Carol and Harold Cobb** - healing after her hip replacement surgery.  
**Nancy Litzinger** - healing after complicated heart surgery.  
**Janie Pillai's mother** as she recuperates from hip surgery.  
**Cindy Changyit Levin** and family - mom's serious health struggles.  
**Karla Beck** - as her brother seeks care and the family shares peace.  
**Kathy and Bill Hilgeman** - her complications after knee surgery.  
**Cathy and Rick Hasler** - her healing; his surgery 8/14.  
**Emi** - 5 year-old undergoing chemo at Children's Hospital (McConnell).  
**Elaine** - healing after cancer surgery (Melanie Muchnick's mom).  
**Ron Mudica** - receiving hospice care; stage 4 cancer (Akers).  
**Violence across the United States.**  
**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; PT.  
**Paige Penico and Family** - as they grieve and give thanks for Steve.  
**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).  
**Tina** - healing after hospitalization (stepmom of Dawn Jones-Goldstein).  
**Derek** - residential treatment for substance addiction (Akers).  
**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 [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]

**Gladys 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.

## **Tune My Heart**

Vince Amlin

*Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. - 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 (NRSV)*

One summer day, my wife and I went to the Milwaukee Art Museum. In one of the galleries, there was a video installation playing on a loop. As we made our way into the next wing, my wife started humming a quick, four-note pattern.

“That’s the music that was playing over that video,” she said, and hummed it again.

“Uh...no it wasn’t,” I insisted. “It sounded like this.” And I sang a slow, descending three notes.

We both looked at each other confused.

“Now we have to go back,” she said. And we did.

The moment we opened the doors to the gallery, I heard those quick four notes she had hummed.

“You were right,” I admitted.

But even as I said it, underneath them came my slow, descending motif. We were both right. Both lines had been playing over and over, and each of us had heard only one of them.

Another example of the way the Spirit is made manifest, the way beloved community is built.

Not by choosing one line to sing in unison, but by learning each of our parts well enough to find the rich harmonies between them.

Not by convincing others to hear God’s voice the way I hear it. But by encouraging everyone to listen deeply to what the Spirit may be saying only to them.

### ***Prayer***

*Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace.*

Consider signing up to receive these UCC daily devotions  
from our God is Still Speaking writers:

**<https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional/>**





# BACK TO SCHOOL



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