



www.parkwayucc.org

September 7, 2025

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Limitless Love | Courageous Action | Spirited Inquiry

Purpose Statement

Parkway United Church of Christ strives to be an inclusive community embracing: spiritual nourishment, open-minded inquiry, courageous action, and interfaith partnerships to fulfill God's calling to create a just world for all.

Congregational Statement

Parkway United Church of Christ, with God's grace, seeks to be a congregation that includes all persons, regardless of race, ethnic, or socio—economic background while respecting differences of gender, marital status, age, sexual orientation, and mental and physical ability. We aspire to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God. We invite all to share in the life and leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities and blessings of participation in our open and affirming congregation.

PARKWAY UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

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John Nourse, *Pastor Emeritus*

Welcome to Parkway

Thank you for joining us this morning! If you are with us virtually, please let us know you are here by commenting in the chat or sending an email.

Welcome Children We invite children to full participation in worship. We also have activity bags for young children to use while they are here.

Bell Rung During Lord's Prayer A tradition begun when farmers working in surrounding fields would stop their work and join in prayer.

Worship Serving Today

Scripture Reader is Jackie Eiffert.

Flowers given by Sue Stolze.

Treats after worship Girl Scout cookies!

Please consider signing up for sometime this autumn.



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

9/7 Jackie Eiffert

9/7 Kate Bowermaster

9/10 Kennedy Lawson

9/11 Christy Lindner

9/12 Grant Oehler

9/13 Mark Sableman

13th Sunday *after* Pentecost

Sunday, September 7, 2025 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & YouTube Live

We are so pleased to have FOOT (Friends of Old Time) musicians here with us again this morning. Thank you for coming back! We so appreciate and enjoy your gifts.

Prelude *Liberty*

Welcome Let us know you are here!

Meditation A little progress every day adds up to big results. ~Satya Nani

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 *Sadie at the Back Door*

Scripture Jeremiah 18:1-11 | New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: “Come, go down to the potter’s house, and there I will let you hear my words.”

So I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter’s hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Lord: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you, from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

***Call to Worship** *Inspired by Jeremiah 18 and Psalm 139* Cheryl Lindsay

One:	We come into your house, Divine Potter. We are your clay.
Many:	We praise you, O God. Wonderful are your works. Mold us again!
One:	We bring our burdens and concerns, our hopes and dreams, our doubts and our delights.
Many:	We praise you, O God. Wonderful are your works. Hold us in your sure and gentle hand!
One:	We seek your wisdom. Reveal your direction and our path.
Many:	We praise you, Holy One. Wonderful are your works. Rebuild and replant us!
All:	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**

Holy One, come into our sacred space this hour in ways we can see, feel and know. Guide us into places where we can sense you at work around us, in us and through us. Infuse us with the priceless gifts of the Spirit, that we can mature in our faith and nurture one another. Amen.

***Response** *Julie Ann Johnson*

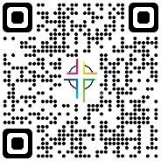
Children's Time For children under the age of 3, parents are invited to take them to Room 09 (upper level) where one of our teachers will meet them at the door. Children from age 3 to 5th grade will go to Room 12, and youth from 6th to 12th grade will go to Room 15. For children in Room 09, parents please pick them up after worship. Children and youth from age 3 thru high school will come back up with their teachers for Communion with all of us.

Blessing the Children *Jesus Loves the Little Children*

**Jesus loves the little children,
All the children of the world.
Every child in every land,
Jesus holds them by the hand.
Jesus loves the little children of the world.**

Misslon Moment *CROP Hunger Walk* Sue Moellering & Pam Manning

Offering Our Gifts to God



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

www.parkwayucc.org/giving

Offering Interlude *Westphalia Waltz*

***Prayer of Dedication** Cheryl Lindsay

Generous God, receive our offerings and magnify them to propel the ministry of our church. May the community and the world benefit from our generous giving. In gratitude, we pray with our gift giving. Amen.

Psalter Lesson Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 | NRSVUE

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue,
O Lord, you know it completely.
You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.
My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.
How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
I try to count them—they are more than the sand;
I come to the end—I am still with you.

New Testament Lesson Philemon, selected verses | NRSVUE

I thank God always when I mention you in my prayers, because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love - and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother - especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

One thing more: prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping through your prayers to be restored to you.

Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my coworkers.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon

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

Call to Prayer *Seneca Square Dance*

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.]

*Breaking Bread & Pouring Wine/Juice

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

*Prayer of Thanksgiving Cheryl Lindsay

We rise now, Holy One, ready and committed to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be servants in the service of the whole human family, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to be the church in the world now. Amen.

*Song of Parting *Hollow Poplar*

*Benediction

*God's Light Goes Forth

*Music for Going Forth *Saddle Old Kate*

Prayer Partner Before and After Worship this Sunday

PUCer Lynn Mark is available in the front left corner of the sanctuary before worship today 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. Kevin Cameron is available after worship as Lynn is leading our Speaker Series entitled "Transition Stories" from her years as a hospice nurse.

Announcements

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

Our Communications Team is very active and is exploring all kinds of avenues. Please subscribe to our YouTube Channel today. Our YouTube Channel is [@parkwayuccsl](https://www.youtube.com/@parkwayuccsl). There is a subscribe button under the main heading and brief description of our church. Thank you! Questions? Please contact barbharris@charter.net or cynthianouri@gmail.com

Speaker Series Occasional opportunities after worship at 11:15am **"Transition Stories," by Lynn Mark, former hospice nurse and Parkway member.**

TODAY | 11:15am | Heritage Room

As a hospice nurse for over 15 years, Lynn Mark accompanied many people on that universal final voyage. Each person traveled their road much like they had lived their one individual life. Facing the unknown, patients and the people who loved and cared for them bravely lived through each day. Because we are all fellow travelers you are invited to share their journeys.

Come and hear stories of faith and courage from patients and the people that traveled the path with them.

"Hand Me Down Music," by Cindy Nouri and Rich Race.

Sunday, September 21 | 11:15am | Heritage Room

Do you remember a melody or jingle or rhyme that makes you feel happy? Have you ever wanted to play an instrument? Cynthia Nouri and Rich Race will present "Hand Me Down Music" where they will play and discuss the social origins and popularity of folk and old time music.

All programs start after worship service at approximately 11:15 AM in the Heritage Room. For questions, kindly contact Richard Scherrer at 90fivetpr@gmail.com

Respect MO Voters

We will 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

Tuesday Evening Dialogue

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

Zoom Meeting ID: 849 4403 9731; Passcode: 792617

Please join us at TED for friendship and lively book discussions. Our current book is *West With Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge. It is an emotional, rousing novel inspired by the incredible true story of two giraffes who made headlines and won the hearts of Depression-era America. We will be discussing chapters 6-11 at our next session on **Sept 9**.

We read a variety of books in TED 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 or four sessions to complete. Newcomers are always welcome!

Bring a dish to share for the potluck & join us for our next conversation! For questions, please contact Helen Race at **raceh@att.net**.

Town Hall 2025

Sunday, September 14 | 11:15 | Fellowship Hall

Please join Council for a light lunch and conversation following worship. Our Goal Writing Team is ready to write the next set of goals and we need input from the congregation. This is an opportunity to share a meal, while talking with a Council member and fellow PUCers. Council would love to hear your joys and concerns about your life in this church. Please join us for an hour of good food and conversation. We ask that parishioners bring a simple desert to share. For more info, contact Lana Biondo **Lanabiondo66@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**

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 discussion of the middle third of the book *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again* by Rachel Held Evans, pages 81 - 164. 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 1:45 pm and the book discussion is from 2-3pm. For more info, please contact

jeiffert2@gmail.com

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, September 20:

The Grand Finale of Downton Abbey!

We will attend the 2pm showing at the Marcus Theatre in Des Peres. RSVP deadline has passed, but reach out to see if we can secure any additional tickets.



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

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**; 314-872-9330

Coffee and Conversation at Panera

Wednesday, September 24 | 2pm | Panera on Manchester Road in Des Peres

Join us for a beverage and sweet treat. Come connect!

No need to RSVP - just show up!

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

PUCCElla Penico Is Rizzo In Grease at SEMO

Saturday, September 27

Take a day trip with us to *Southeast Missouri State*

University to see Ella in ***Grease***. We will carpool from

church at 10am, have lunch in Cape Girardeau and enjoy

Grease at 2pm. Scan or click QR code for ticket details.

After the show, we will greet Ella and her mother Paige and

then return to St Louis – maybe stop for a treat en route!?

It's a 2-hour drive to Cape Girardeau, so we estimate being back to PUCCElla by 6pm. Questions? Contact **kevin@parkwayucc.org**



Align with PUCCElla New Member Sunday

Sunday, September 28

Our church family is constantly changing. People come and go. Babies are born. Children grow up. People commit themselves to one another. Loved ones and friends among us come to the end of their lives. Individuals move into our community and church life. Others leave us, moving away to new places, new experiences, new opportunities. It is with joy and gratitude that we welcome new members into our worship, work and witness at Parkway UCC - in person or virtually. Membership at Parkway UCC could be the next step in your ongoing relationship with God and with other people of faith - though membership is not expected and certainly isn't necessary to be involved in worship, baptism, communion, weddings, funerals or other aspects of church life. As a church member, you have the opportunity to more intentionally grow personally, find a sense of belonging, form lifelong friendships, experience the joy of Christ, discover your spiritual gifts, become more intimate with God, develop your personal prayer style, expand your boundaries, become more Christ-like and more. With our congregational democratic polity, as a church member, you have a voice and vote within our church to weigh in on topics such as the annual budget, church vision, building decisions and more. If this is something you might be interested in, please let us know by talking with **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 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**



Hey! Hay! Youth Hayride and Smores Fall Fun at Queeny Park

Saturday, October 11 | 6-9pm | Queeny Park

Calling all middle schoolers and high schoolers! Ask a friend to join us for this

autumn adventure. We will meet at church, gather up some chairs and smores

ingredients and head to Queeny Park for a 45-minute hayride and an hour

around a private fire. We will be back to church around 9pm. For more info,

contact Kevin Cameron at **kevin@parkwayucc.org**

"Rainbow of Talent" A Coffeehouse Event

Sunday, October 12 | 3-5pm | 5007 Waterman Blvd

Are you a musician, vocalist, poet, writer, or actor? You're invited to

participate in an open mic for the LGBTQ+ community to celebrate National

LGBTQ+ History Month. The event is at First Unitarian

Church of St. Louis. We're creating a space to celebrate

LGBTQ+ history and creativity! If you're interested in being a

part of this ALL-AGES coffeehouse performance, Click or

scan QR code to register.



For more info, contact Debbie Reinhardt or the LGBTQ+ Faith Alliance at

deborahreinhardt@att.net

Join the VisionWalk Team!

Saturday, October 18 | 9am | Creve Coeur Park, St. Louis, MO

Join us for a family-friendly walk, resource fair, and activities for all ages.

Together, we're advancing the fight against blinding diseases and building a

brighter future, one step at a time. 9am registration. 10:30am walk begins.

Let's cure blinding retinal degenerative diseases together!

Please join PUCC's VisionWalk team, the Believers, or make

a donation to the Foundation Fighting Blindness and help us

save and restore sight to the 10 million Americans living in

darkness. Scan or click the QR code.



The team is walking in support of someone very dear to us with a blinding eye

disease. We hope that you will support the team by making a donation and

joining them at VisionWalk!

Join the fight and help us accelerate our mission! For more info, please

contact Jo Grove **jogroveo8@gmail.com**

Furniture available free from Parkway UCC

Desk and 3 chairs (one that is green cushioned and frayed on both arms, and the two matching vinyl captain's chairs) from the Gathering Space need a new home. Reach out to Gabriel at **gabriel@parkwayucc.org** to let him know what you are planning on taking one, two or all three items.

PUCC Shirt Available for Sale!

Show your church spirit and spread a little love wherever you go! Our new church t-shirts are comfortable, soft, and perfect for everything from Sunday worship to community events. They feature our church name/logo so you can wear your faith out loud. Shirts are just \$15 each in a variety of sizes. Click or scan QR code to purchase your PUCC shirt today!



For any questions, contact Gabriel **gabriel@parkwayucc.org**

Looking for another way to support immigrants and refugees?

Jennifer Owens founded the Forai initiative 16 years ago. Forai, Inc., partners with local refugee and immigrant women to enable the realization of economic, educational, and social goals through training and peer support, and by expanding market opportunities for artisans to help refugee women develop/monetize skills by making items to sell - mostly jewelry and sewn items. The faith-based, Christian 501(c)3 organization recently opened a store in Kirkwood at 211 S. Kirkwood Road. For further info, feel free to email Lisa Mason, **lmason624@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.

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 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, September 3, 2025

Celebrations

Jean Mueller - moved to Cape Albeon in Valley Park last weekend.

Celebrating our NONAGENARIANS last Sunday in worship:

Nancy Darland, Mildred Hoxie, Gerre Langton, Skip Larson, Ruth Peace, Naomi Runtz, Peg Sant'Ambrogio, Florence Simonson, Gladys Sims, Charlotte Smith and Don Wandless

Concerns

Cindy Changyit Levin and family as they grieve/give thanks for her mother
- *Dr. Lazette Bevers Chang-Yit Nichols*

Kathy and Bill Hilgeman - her complications after knee surgery.

Emi - 5 year-old undergoing chemo at Children's Hospital (McConnell).

Elaine - healing after cancer surgery (Melanie Muchnick's mom).

Annunciation Catholic School in Minneapolis in grief.

Aftermath of earthquakes in Afghanistan.

Ongoing chaos and grief in the Middle East.

The continuing war with Ukraine and Russia.

Our St Louis neighbors after the tornado in May.

Continuing

John & Dottie Dwyer - gaining strength after his heart procedure; PT.

Carol & Harold Cobb - healing after her hip replacement surgery.

Cathy and Rick Hasler - both recuperating from surgery.

Janie Pillai's mother as she recuperates from hip surgery.

Karla Beck - as her brother seeks care and the family shares peace.

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

Phil and Amy and daughter B - as his terminal illness progresses.

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).

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

Ron Mudica - receiving hospice care; stage 4 cancer (Akers).

Derek - dying from alcoholism; grace for his father David (Akers).

Kenton & Teal Blacksten - K's many health challenges due to diabetes

Bob Messey - serious health concerns (Svenson).

John Ruiz's oldest brother and wife - healing in Cape Girardeau.

John & Nancy Tallyn - his heart condition; her recurring leukemia, etc

Renee Pellegrino & family - as she deals with multiple health issues.

Danny Venverlo - awaiting a kidney transplant (McDougall).

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

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

Haack's doctor and his wife Christine - her ongoing health crisis.

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.

Leave Some Trace

Vince Amlin

[Jesus taught them, saying,] “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorns, or figs from thistles? In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit.” – Matthew 7:15-17 (NRSV)

Ichnology is the study of trace fossils. Not the big T-Rex skeleton at your natural history museum. Or even the shark’s teeth you hunt for in the creek behind your house. Not fossils of the thing itself at all, only of the traces it left behind.

Million-year-old footprints frozen in stone. Tunnels and burrows preserved for posterity. Bite marks and claw marks etched into bone. The ichnologist studies not what was there but what it did. Or rather, she studies what was there by studying what it did.

Which Jesus says is also how you’ll know who really speaks for God.

Not by who they are, which can be deceiving. Not by their position, denomination, nationality ... not by looking at them at all. But only at what they did, how they lived, what remains:

The tracks they made marching in solidarity with those who were suffering. The tunnels they dug to undermine systems of injustice and oppression. The evidence they left of fighting tooth and nail in the cause of love.

The good that came from it all.

“You will know them by their fruits.” By what they left behind. Their traces. Which live on, long after they are gone.

Prayer

God, thank you for those who have left their mark.

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

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



TODAY in Sunday School

The Bible begins with the story of creation. This is a story of beginnings. In fact, our name for this book of the Bible, Genesis, comes from the Greek word for “origin” (Genesis 1:1–2:4a).

THE POINT

God declares that creation is good.

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

The Old Testament contains the first 39 books in the Protestant Bible. It is a collection of ancient texts that were originally written in Hebrew and Aramaic and later translated to other languages, including English. The writing of the Old Testament spanned 500 years. The Christian Old Testament is organized into categories: the Law, the History, Poetry, and the Prophets (major and minor). Although the individual books in the Old Testament are separate writings, collectively they tell a story of a loving God who wants a relationship with humanity.

STORY SUMMARY

In the beginning, God made order out of chaos. God began with nothing and created the world and all that is in it through a step-by-step process. That ordered process demonstrated care for the big picture and care for the details. As God paused to view the progress after each step, God was pleased that it was good. God was uniquely involved in preparing good things in creation to be a blessing to humanity. We are a part of God’s creation, created in God’s image, and as God continues to bless us, we can be a blessing to others as well.

PRACTICE: Worship

Worship is any way that we show God our love. When we admire and express our enjoyment of God’s creation, we worship God. We can praise God for the world around us, for the grass, the oceans, the mountains, and the foliage. As a family, enjoy the outdoors through a walk or an outdoor game. At various times in this experience, take turns thanking God for specific parts of creation around you.

NEXT WEEK in Sunday School

After a very long time waiting, the son that God promised is born to Abraham and Sarah: Isaac (Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-14).

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: Genesis 1:1-2:4a

God was pleased with entire creation and called it good. What does it mean to you to be created in God's image?

MONDAY: Genesis 2:7-9, 15, 18-25

Adam and Eve were given the responsibility to tend and take care of the land. What is your responsibility in taking care of God's creation?

TUESDAY: Genesis 3:8-19

Sin changed humanity's relationship with the earth as well as humanity's relationship with God. What consequences have you experienced for choices you made?

WEDNESDAY: Genesis 12:1-9

God called Abram to leave all that he knew and follow God to a land God knew. Along with that call was a promise for great blessings. Why do we receive blessings from God?

THURSDAY: Genesis 15:1-6

God made a covenant with Abram, promising that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars. If we are descendants of Abram (Abraham), who are our siblings?

FRIDAY: Genesis 17:15-21

God changed Abram's name to Abraham (Gen. 17:5) and Sarai's to Sarah (17:15). God promised them a son who would continue the covenant. If your name was an adjective, what would you want it to be?

SATURDAY: Genesis 18:1-15

The Lord appeared to Abraham through three visitors near the trees at Mamre. What food would you serve if God visited you?

9/11 Painting

“We Remember,” by Mary Beth Wilson

Years ago, I was asked to complete a painting during a one-hour choir performance at MICDS. I agreed, thinking it would push me as an artist, force me to publicize my art, as well as support the school community. Little did I know that the Italian opera previously planned would turn into a tribute to 9/11 on the 7th anniversary. Knowledge of this brought immediate fear. How would I, as an artist, represent the multitude of lives that were brutally taken? This day was my biggest challenge as an artist.

With fear inside of me, I took the challenge and furiously painted during the performance. When the concert ended people were in tears. My painting was sent to New York and hung in St. Paul's Cathedral. When it returned to me it has remained a treasure to mark one of my biggest accomplishments as an artist.

To share insight into the art... This painting started as a Red, White and Blue flag that completely transformed during the performance to symbolize the people and remains from this horrific day. As you can clearly see the focus is the twin towers. This will always remain a vision in our minds. As the towers were attacked the world stopped. I still remember exactly where I was! So many people tragically lost their lives. Families were stricken with devastation and uncertainty. I have attempted to give beauty to tragedy. I have represented the lost lives by doves brilliantly flying free out of the top of the towers to find peace and sanctuary. I pray that the lives lost found freedom and flight to give purpose to their senseless demise. From the tower the harsh color of red sidelines the building to symbolize the blood and destruction. It is my prayer that the blood sacrificed will drip into the ground promoting growth to all of us that survived. May we blossom and grow in abundance owning and appreciating our lives and addition to this world. For if we can become better people from this tragedy it will give honor to the people that were torn from their families and life far too early.

Can we, as we walk this earth today, take a moment to count our blessings? Especially with the current pain and uncertainty we are all enduring. We represent so many that have been sacrificed.

Please be mindful of our presence and make every day a pure loving reflection of the best person we can be.

The painting will be on display in the Gathering Space for the month of September.