





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

December 28, 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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# Welcome to Parkway

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

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

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

## Worship Serving Today

**Scripture Reader** is Bill Haack.

**Flowers** are given by Bill Haack as he and Gail celebrate their 47<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Treats** are provided by Karen Mariani.



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

12/28 Zoe Lyons

12/28 Bob Zoller

12/30 Gerry Rogers

12/31 Stan Burcham

1/1/26 Barry Luedloff

1/3/26 Connie Burkhardt

## Anniversaries

12/28 Kathy & Stan Burcham

12/28 Bill & Gail Haack

# 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday *after* Christmas

Sunday, December 28, 2025 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & YouTube Live

**Prelude** *Corde Natus ex Parentis* (From the *Heart of God the Parent*),  
Traditional

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

**Meditation** I will honor Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year. ~Charles Dickens

## Passing the Peace of Christ

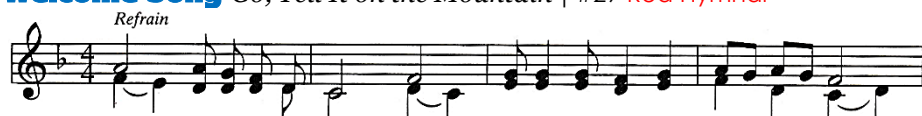
“May the peace of Christ be with you.”

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

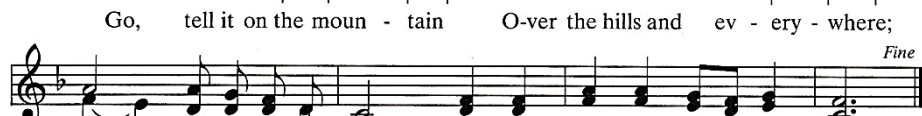
## Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

**Welcome Song** *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* | #29 Red Hymnal

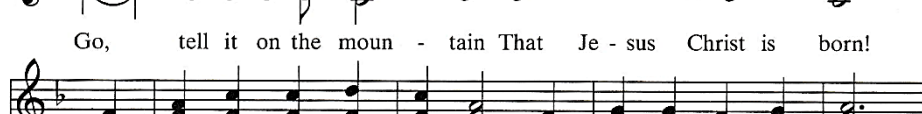
*Refrain*



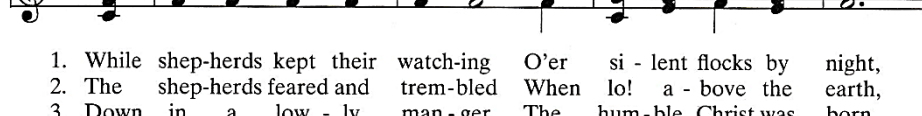
Go, tell it on the moun - tain O-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;



Go, tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!



1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,  
2. The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When lo! a - bove the earth,  
3. Down in a low - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born,



*D.C.*

Be - hold through-out the heav-ens There shone a ho - ly light.  
Rang out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

**Scripture** Psalm 148 | Inclusive Language Psalter

Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God!

How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!

God rebuilds Jerusalem; God gathers the exiles of Israel.

God heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

God counts the number of the stars and calls them all by their names.

Great is our God and mighty in power; there is no limit to God's wisdom.

God lifts up the lowly, but casts the wicked to the ground.

Sing to God with thanksgiving; make music to our God upon the harp.

God covers the heavens with clouds and prepares rain for the earth; God makes grass to grow upon the mountains and green plants to serve humankind.

God provides food for flocks and herds and for the young ravens when they cry.

God is not impressed by the might of a horse; God has no pleasure in the strength of a human being; but God has pleasure in those who fear God, in those who await God’s gracious favor.

Worship God, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion;

For God has strengthened the bars of your gates; God has blessed your children within you.

God has established peace on your borders; God satisfies you with the finest wheat.

God sends out their command to the earth, and their word runs very swiftly. God gives snow like wool; God scatters hoarfrost like ashes.

God scatters their hail like bread crumbs; who can stand against their cold? God sends forth God’s word and melts them; God blows with their wind, and the waters flow.

God declares God’s word to Jacob, God’s statutes and their judgments to Israel.

God has not done so to any other nation; to them God has not revealed their judgments. Hallelujah!

**\*Gathering at the Advent/Christmas Wreath**

One:	The songs have quieted a bit. The gifts are unwrapped. The light still shines.
Many:	<b>We come carrying Christmas with us - in tired bodies, hopeful hearts, and open hands.</b>
One:	We come with Mary’s courage, Joseph’s trust, and a child who changed everything.
Many:	<b>We come to ponder, to question, to listen, to discover what love asks of us next.</b>
One:	Here, in this place, God is still being born - in compassion, in justice, in ordinary ways all of the days.
Many:	<b>We worship the Holy who dwells among us, not only in manger scenes, but in neighbors, strangers and in each of us.</b>
One:	Come, let us worship the God who stays.
All:	<b>Let us worship our God together - Creator, Christ and Spirit.</b>

**Lighting of the Advent Candles and the Christ Candle**

**Questions at the Wreath**

What part of the Christmas story still lingers with you - and why?

What stories did you hear this Advent that challenged or changed you?

How are you being invited to carry Christmas into daily life?

Where is God being born again - in yourself, in others, in the world?

**\*Song** *The First Nowell* | #56 Red Hymnal

**The first Nowell the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

Refrain: **Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.**

**They look-ed up and saw a star shining in the  
east beyond them far, and to the earth it gave great  
light so it continued both day & night.** Refrain

**And by the light of that same star, Three wise men  
came from country far; to seek for a king was their intent,  
And to follow the star wherever it went.** Refrain

**This star drew nigh to the northwest; O'er Bethlehem  
it took its rest, and there it did both stop and stay,  
Right over the place where Jesus lay.** Refrain

**Then entered in those wise men three,  
Fell reverently upon their knee,  
And offered there His presence,  
Their gold and myrrh, and frankincense.** Refrain

**\*Opening Prayer**

Holy Mystery, the silent night and the birthing day are behind us now... and still you are here. You came not only for a moment, but for a life - not only in shiny glory, but in vulnerability and flesh. Meet us in the afterglow of Christmas: in tired hearts, in lingering joy, in questions we are still holding. Teach us to notice your presence in ordinary days and unfinished stories.

Help us carry the gift of incarnation into homes, workplaces, and streets where love is still needed. Bless our worship, not as an ending to the season, but as a beginning - a continual *yes* to living your love in the world. 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 06 (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 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will then go to Room 12, children from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grade will stay in Room 13, and youth from 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade will go to Room 15. For children in Room 06, 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** *Be Near Me, Lord Jesus*

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
And teach us, dear Jesus, to laugh and to share.**

### **Scripture** Luke 2:21-40 | New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

When the eighth day came, it was time to circumcise the child, and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word,  
for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
a light for revelation to the gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.”

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed - and a sword will pierce your own soul, too.”

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.

## **Moment of Silent Reflection**

### **Sermon**

## **Invitation to Prayer** *All of You Who Walked in Darkness* (tune: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*)

All of you who walked in darkness who have known the fear of night -  
Now rejoice and sing with gladness; come and see the wondrous light!  
God has turned your tears to songs, lifting burdens, righting wrongs.  
God sent us a tiny boy bringing hope and peace and joy.  
In one little baby's birth, God knelt down to love the earth.

Still Christ comes to save God's people, still he comes to those oppressed.  
To the folks who toil and struggle, God has sent the very best.  
To the young and to the old, to the homeless, tired and cold,  
To the lost, to those who mourn, to the world, a child is born.  
In one little baby's birth, God knelt down to love the earth.

In this time of celebration, may we show what life can be,  
As we care for God's creation, as we serve the Prince of Peace.  
Seeking justice everywhere, lifting burdens others bear,  
May we gladly serve and pray - knowing why we live this way:  
In one little baby's birth, God knelt down to love the earth.

## **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.]

### **Mission Moment** *Second Mile Advent/Christmas*

Circle of Concern | Emmaus Homes | PROMO | The Christmas Fund

### **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** Improvisation on *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*  
by Johnny Marks and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

**\*Response** *There's Not a Thing That God Can't Do*  
(tune: *While Shepherds Watch Their Flocks*)

**O God, what awesome things you do;  
You call, surprise and bless!  
As Mary answered, may we, too,  
Respond by saying, "Yes!"**



## \*Prayer of Dedication

Holy One, we offer these gifts in these twelve days after Christmas - not as leftovers from the season, but as signs that love continues. We give from what we have received: from grace made flesh, from hope that took root among us, from a child who showed us the way of compassion. Bless these offerings, that they may help love take shape in daily acts of justice, in care for the vulnerable, and in welcome that does not fade with the decorations.

As we return to ordinary days, teach us to live generously - with our resources, our time, and our lives - so that the promise of Christmas continues to be born in the world. Amen.

## \*Song of Parting *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* | #28 Red Hymnal



1. Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice      With heart, and soul, and voice;
2. Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice      With heart, and soul, and voice;
3. Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice      With heart, and soul, and voice;



Give ye heed to what we say:      Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
Now ye hear of end - less bliss:      Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
Now ye need not fear the grave:      Je - sus Christ was born to save!



Ox and ass be - fore Him bow, And He is in the man - ger now.  
He hath o - pened heav - en's door, And we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
Calls you one and calls you all To gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day!      Christ is born to - day!  
Christ was born for this!      Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born to save!      Christ was born to save!

## \*Benediction

## \*God's Light Goes Forth

## \*Music for Going Forth *Good King Wenceslas*

# 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](#). 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)

## Next Sunday: Epiphany!

Come back next Sunday to celebrate the arrival of the wisemen. Epiphany! **We will celebrate the sacrament of communion** at our open table. All are invited to receive this simple sacred meal. If you are with us remotely, please consider having some bread, crackers, wine, grape juice handy.

**It's Give-A-Meal Sunday.** Please bring gifts of non-perishable food items and/or personal care items for our neighbors in the city and county.

**First Sunday Choir!** Please come at 9am to learn a song we will sing during worship. All ages welcome! Questions? Contact [amy@parkwayucc.org](mailto:amy@parkwayucc.org)

## Council Highlights for December

1. The second set of Goals have been completed and will commence in January. The major categories include: Membership, Identity, Worship Service and Finances.
2. Mona retired last week.
3. The roof in the Education wing has been repaired and the double outside doors in Harper's Hall will be replaced soon.
4. The outside security cameras have been installed and after a couple of cameras showing hallways upstairs and down have been installed, the camera security system will be complete.
5. Council agreed that with help from PRC, a search will begin for another Child Care Provider.

For more info on Church Council matters, contact Pres. Lana Biondo [Lanabiondo66@gmail.com](mailto:Lanabiondo66@gmail.com)

## Speaker Series Occasional opportunities after worship at 11:15am "Mark Twain, His Wit, His Words, and His Life," by Bev Schuetz of History Talks.

Sunday, January 4, 2026 | 11:15am | Heritage Room

Learn the surprising story of America's most beloved author while laughing at his wonderful observations on human nature. Follow this Missouri born writer's great successes and personal happiness as well as his tragic personal and financial losses.

Our speaker, Bev Schuetz, is a popular and dynamic speaker who has created HISTORY TALKS, a series of live presentations. She is known for her unique topics, delightful presentations, and thoroughly researched programs. HISTORY TALKS combines her skills in public speaking, historical analysis, and creative writing. The results are lectures that reward and enrich those attending her presentations.

## **“Bletchley Park; the Home of WWII’s Codebreakers,” by Parks Smith.**

Sunday, January 18, 2026 | 11:15am | Heritage Room

Bletchley Park, in England, was the top-secret home of the World War II "Codebreakers." a term for the over 9,000 men and women who intercepted and cracked German war messages. Winston Churchill referred to the Bletchley staff as "the geese who laid the golden eggs and never cackled." Our speakers, Parks Smith, is a retired St. Louisan historian, who often speaks at the St. Louis History Museum.

Mr. Smith will explore Bletchley Park's history from 1939 to 1946, sharing stories of those who worked there and detailing how German messages were captured and decoded during the Battle of the Atlantic. This mighty effort included breaking the German Enigma and Lorenz codes and developing the Colossus computer.

Questions? Please email Richard Scherrer at [90fivetpr@gmail.com](mailto:90fivetpr@gmail.com)

## **Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue on Zoom**

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 with TAD for our latest book, *The Maid* by Nita Prose. We'll discuss the book in thirds on Zoom: **January 6, 2026.**

A *Chue*-like, locked-room mystery and a heartwarming journey of the spirit, *The Maid* explores what it means to be the same as everyone else and yet entirely different - and reveals that all mysteries can be solved through connection to the human heart (Penguin Random House). We'd love to have you! Fellowship starts at 1:45pm and the book discussion is from 2-3pm. For more info, please contact [jeiffert2@gmail.com](mailto:jeiffert2@gmail.com)

## **AMOE Meeting Change of Date for January 2026**

Thursday, January 8, 2026 | 9:15am | Heritage Room

The boys of AMOE will meet on the second Thursday of January, and then return to the first Thursday of each month. All are welcome. Bring a friend if you like for fellowship and good coffee.

## **Prayer Corner an opportunity to pray with someone**

Saturday, January 10, 2026 | 7-9am | 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); 314-872-9330

## **Coffee and Conversation at Panera**

Monday, January 12, 2026 | 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](mailto:kevin@parkwayucc.org); 314-872-9330

## LGBTQ+ News for December

As we prepare to say goodbye to 2025 and greet the new year, here are three opportunities in January to stand in solidarity with the LGBTQIA+ community in St. Louis and throughout the state. Please find a way to be involved.

- PROMO Missouri will host a webinar at 5 p.m. on **Jan 12** that gives a preview of this year's Missouri legislative session. Many anti-LGBTQ+ bills already have been filed. Our voices as affirming, faithful people are needed. Register for the webinar today.

**<https://www.mobilize.us/mobilize/event/873586/>**

- Join the LGBTQ+ Faith Alliance **Jan 19 – 24** for its first Advocacy Week. There will be events to write letters and thank you cards to Missouri legislators (Jan 20), attend a rally in Jefferson City (Jan 21), and raise our voices in song (Jan 22). Details will be forthcoming and are available online

**<https://linktr.ee/lgbtfaithalliance>** or email the Alliance at **[lgbtfaithalliance@aol.com](mailto:lgbtfaithalliance@aol.com)** for a schedule.

- Our ONA Team will present an exhibit of portraits and stories, “Authentic Selves,” that highlight the lives of trans and nonbinary people. An opening reception will be at 7 p.m. on **Jan 24** and feature local trans and HIV healthcare advocate, Jordon Braxton. You also can view the exhibit (which will be on display through Feb. 8) and enjoy a continental breakfast at 9 a.m. on Jan 25 prior to our worship service. Watch the weekly newsletter and worship bulletin for details as we get closer.

## Tuesday Evening Dialogue

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

Zoom Meeting ID: 849 4403 9731; Passcode: 792617

Please join us on for friendship and lively book discussions on **Jan 13** when TED resumes after our Holiday Break. 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!

Please join us in person at 6pm or on Zoom starting at 6:45pm.

Contact Helen Race at **[raceh@att.net](mailto:raceh@att.net)** for questions.

## Day of Service in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Monday, January 19, 2026 | 9:30am-12pm | 3752 Giles Ave., St. Louis, 63116

Youth 12-17 years of age are welcome to join Interfaith Partnerships Youth on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day to serve the unhoused. The youth will prepare a meal and set up cots/bedding for the unhoused. They will offer team and peace-building games as well. Space is limited and you must register by letting Kevin know you are interested. Kevin will be leading the youth from PUCC. Contact him at **[kevin@parkwayucc.org](mailto:kevin@parkwayucc.org)** for more info.

## Authentic Selves: Celebrating Trans and Nonbinary People & Their Families

Saturday, January 24, 2026 | 7-8:30pm | Gathering Space

Join the Parkway ONA Team and the LGBTQ+ Faith Alliance in welcoming the Family Diversity Project's photo exhibit, "Authentic Selves," presented at Parkway UCC from Jan. 24 through Feb. 8, 2026. Opening night reception features guest Jordon Braxton, a longtime St. Louis advocate for trans rights and a member of the St. Lois City HIV Health Services Planning Council.

Refreshments will be served. A second opening will be from 9 to 10am with opportunity to view exhibit and enjoy a continental breakfast before Sunday worship. The exhibit will be on view through Feb. 8, 2026. Please scan or click QR code to RSVP by Jan. 23. For more info, contact Debbie Reinhardt [deborahreinhardt@att.net](mailto:deborahreinhardt@att.net)



## Witnessing Whiteness PUCC Study Group begins in January

We're forming a *Witnessing Whiteness* learning circle using Shelly Tochluk's book *Witnessing Whiteness: The Journey into Racial Awareness and Antiracist Action* as our framework. It's a supportive, no-shame space where white-identifying people can explore identity, grow in self-awareness, and practice showing up with more courage, compassion, and clarity in our diverse and hurting world. No expertise needed is - just curiosity and a willingness to reflect in community. This will take place on Zoom - Mondays 6:30-8:30pm

If you're looking for a space to deepen your understanding, build stronger relationships, and align your actions with your values, we'd love to have you. *This experience is free.* We just ask that you purchase the book. More guidance will be provided by our three trained volunteer facilitators that have been assigned to shepherd or PUCC group.

We invite you to engage in an exciting opportunity that supports our core values of limitless love, courageous action and spirited inquiry. The purpose of this group is to gain thought-provoking information and engage in meaningful conversations surrounding how White people can, and should, play an important role in the fight for racial justice.

Kevin has participated in a Witnessing Whiteness group in the past and will not be a part of this one. Please reach out to him with questions or to sign up. Dates: Jan 26; Feb 2, 9, 23; Mar 2, 9, 23, 30; Apr 6, 13, 20, 27; May 4 and 11.

## Opportunities for Good Samaritans

**North St. Louis Tornado Relief, food.** Please add extra nonperishable food items on Give-a-Meal Sundays and throughout the winter season for Sunday give-aways to people affected by the St. Louis tornado. Please place items in marked containers in the lobby.

**North St. Louis Tornado Relief, nonfood.** Our church is a collection point for Planned Parenthood as they gather baby and personal hygiene items for mothers and babies affected by the St. Louis tornado. Please place items in the marked containers in the Gathering Space library area. Questions? Please contact Sally Dodge [s.dodge@hotmail.com](mailto:s.dodge@hotmail.com); and Evelyn Buretta [burettaevelyn@gmail.com](mailto:burettaevelyn@gmail.com)

# Prayer List

Monday, December 22, 2025

## Celebrations

**This Advent/Christmas Journey of hope, peace, joy and love!**

**Mona Maynard** - retired last week after nearly 15 years at PUC.

## Concerns

**Individuals and families grieving at the holidays.**

**All the travelers this holiday season.**

**Pam Walker** - healing after major surgery earlier this week.

**Marion Pleis** - healing from recent carpal tunnel surgery.

**Greg Schmelig's father** - in a rehab facility after recent hospital stay.

**Tina** - complications of Legionnaires' disease (Jones-Goldstein).

**Traci Saputo's dad** - hospitalized with broken hip and other issues.

**Ongoing chaos/grief in the Middle East** - and the *peace talks*.

**The continuing war with Ukraine and Russia.**

**Our St Louis neighbors finding their way after tornado in May.**

## Continuing

**Alex Wiseman** - seeking diagnosis/treatment for health concern.

**Rebecca** - continued healing after recent brain surgery (Bowermaster).

**Virginia Krus** - healing after leg amputation (Evelyn Buretta's sister).

**John & Dottie Dwyer** - continuing to make progress with his healing.

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

**Lori Connors** - healing and strengthening.

**Lara Beck** - as her family seeks peace and her brother receives care.

**Howard Price** - rehab hospital after car accident, seizures (Svenson).

**Carole Gwyn** - ongoing health issues (David's mother).

**Judy Brueggemann** - continuing health challenges (Brad's mother).

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

**Emi** - 5 year-old with Children's Hospital for chemo (McConnell).

**Kate Moran** - receiving treatments; exorbitant cost (Borgmann).

**Kathy** - diagnosed with lymphoma, preparing for surgery (Akers).

**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.

**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]

**Pat Owens** - *Mason Pointe* - 13190 South Outer Forty Rd, #2303; Town and Country, MO 63017; 314-323-7194 [birthdate: February 18]

**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.

**Prayer Chaplain Ministry here at Parkway UCC.**

## 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.





## **FUNDrive Planned for Jan-March 2026 Clean out your closets & cupboards--Help TWO GOOD CAUSES!**

Parkway United Church of Christ is sponsoring a FUNDrive for two organizations in our church: the Eco-Stewards, with funds going toward maintaining and improving the Wildflower Pollinator Garden and the Youth Group, with funds going toward their mission trips. We have bags and packing instruction available in the Gathering Space and will start collecting bags of clothing and household textiles, as well as boxes of small household goods, books, and media on **Sunday, January 4, 2026**. The drive will continue through **March 7**. Start thinking now about what you can donate to support these causes and streamline your home to start the New Year! Drop off bags and boxes in the Fellowship Hall, to your right, when you walk in. Questions--contact Polly Rutherford, [pollyrutherford@gmail.com](mailto:pollyrutherford@gmail.com)

## **Stewardship Campaign 2026**

If you would like to make a financial pledge toward our mission and ministry for 2026, please visit <https://parkwayucc.org/giving/>  
*Your involvement helps keep our passion for limitless love, courageous action and spirited inquiry rooted in love and moving forward. We appreciate your support! Parkway UCC 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.*

