



www.parkwayucc.org

December 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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parkwayucc.org | contact@parkwayucc.org

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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 are given by Marilyn McDougall in memory of her mother, Esther.

Treats provided by Michelle Singer.



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

12/8 Kari Borgmann

12/10 Michelle Singer

12/10 Patrick Tuckwell

12/11 Roger Fagerberg

12/13 Amy Yakel

12/13 Q Watkins

Anniversaries

12/9 Joy & Pam Walker

2nd Sunday of Advent: Peace

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

Prelude *Jingle Bells* (on Glockenspiel)

Welcome Let us know you are here!

Meditation Peace. It does mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble or hard work. It means to be in the midst of those things and still be calm in your heart. ~unknown

Passing the Peace of Christ

“May the peace of Christ be with you.” Peace.

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

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Welcome Song *Lead Me, Guide Me* | #2214 Blue Songbook

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way,
for if you lead me, I can - not stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Scripture Isaiah 11:1-10 | New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition
A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

*Gathering at the Advent Wreath: Peace

One:	In a world restless with worry and rumbling with conflict, we light again light the candle of hope and add the candle of peace.
Many:	Not the peace of silence or the absence of struggle, but the peace born of justice, compassion, and courage.
One:	Christ comes as a child - vulnerable, small - calling us to softness in a hardened world.
Many:	We welcome the One who leads us into healing, who whispers “Do not be afraid,” who invites us to prepare the way with kindness.
One:	We gather as seekers, dreamers, peacemakers in training. We come with open hearts and trembling hope.
Many:	May this sacred space be a refuge for the weary, a spark for those longing for change, a reminder that peace is possible.
One:	Come, let us worship the God who is our peace, who dwells among us and within us still.
Many:	We await the Christ-child with steady hearts. Peace is on the way.
All:	Let us worship our God together - Creator, Christ and Spirit.

Lighting of the Peace and Hope Advent Candles

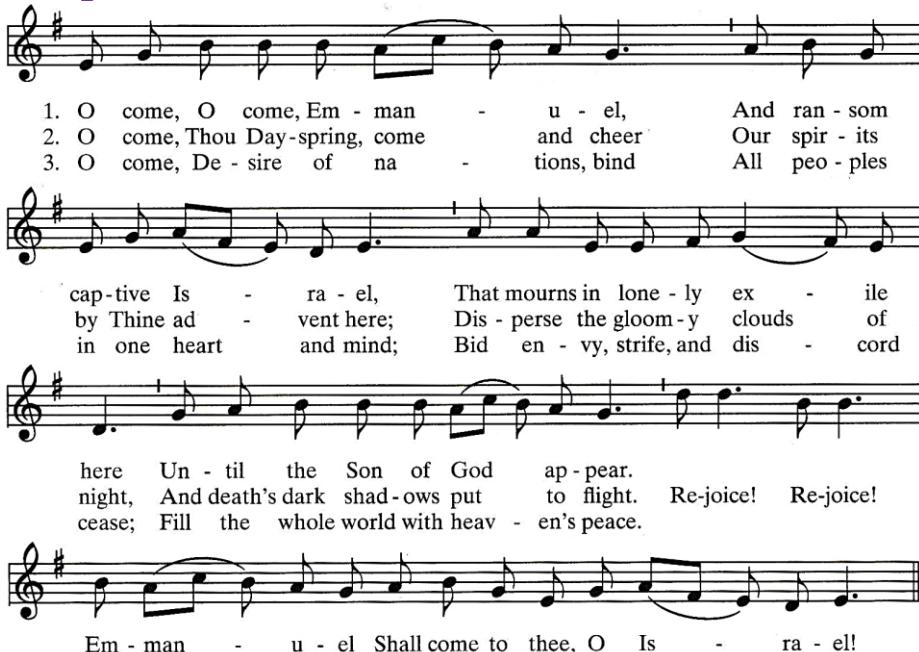
Questions at the Wreath

If **peace** is something we build rather than something we wait for, what can you do today to help make peace progress?

How might God be calling you to make peace that is more than quietness - **peace** that is justice-shaped and love-rooted?

What is one place in your life where you feel God nudging you to lay down fear, bitterness, or competition and choose **peace** instead?

*Song *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
2. O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer Our spir - its
3. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind All peo - ples

cap-tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - - ile
by Thine ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
in one heart and mind; Bid en - vy, strife, and dis - cord

here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight. Re-joice! Re-joice!
cease; Fill the whole world with heav - en's peace.

Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

*Opening Prayer

Holy One, in this season of waiting and expectation, we gather as people longing for peace - not the quiet of resignation, but the bold peace that brings justice, mercy, and wholeness to all. On this Advent morning, open us to your presence. Soften what has grown hard within us. Calm what churns with worry or unrest. Make room in us for the peace Christ brings - the peace that is tender with the vulnerable, courageous in the face of oppression, and grounded in love that refuses to let go. As we light the candle of Peace today, may it illumine our hearts with hope, guide our feet toward reconciliation, and inspire us to be makers of peace in our homes, our communities, and our world. May your Spirit move among us - gentle as a dove, steady as a heartbeat, kindling peace that surpasses understanding and transforms everything it touches. We pray in the name of the One who comes still - child of promise, breaker of chains, Prince of Peace. Amen.

*Response *Spirit of God's Living Peace*

Spirit of God's living peace, fall afresh on me;
Spirit of God's living peace, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me!
Spirit of God's living peace, 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 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 06, 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 *This is Where Children Belong*

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

Mission Moment *Second Mile Advent*

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

Stewardship Moment

Offering Our Gifts to God

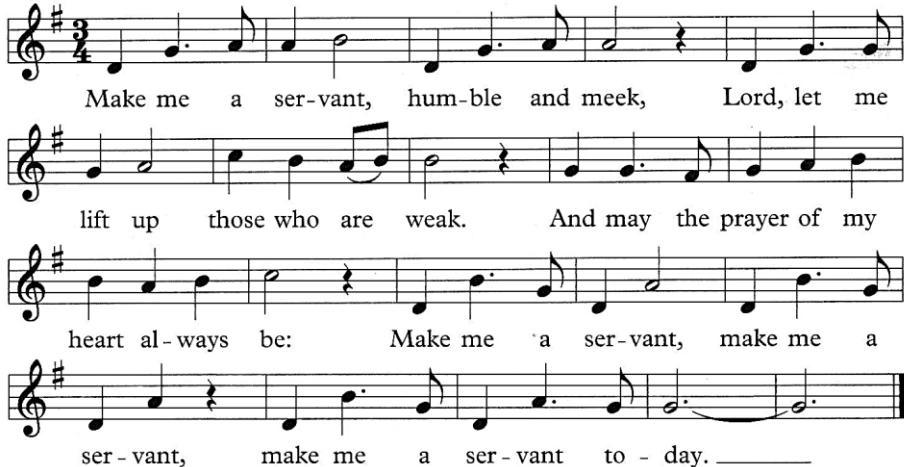


If you have an offering today, please place it in the plate on the stand next to the communion table before the end of the closing hymn. There are offering plates in the Gathering Space outside the sanctuary too. Thank you for your generosity.

www.parkwayucc.org/giving

Offering Interlude *Creator of the Stars of Night*

*Response *Make Me A Servant*



Make me a servant, humble and meek, Lord, let me
lift up those who are weak. And may the prayer of my
heart always be: Make me a servant, make me a
servant, make me a servant to - day.

*Prayer of Dedication

Holy One, bless the gifts we bring today: our money, our time, our voices, our work. May these offerings sow peace where fear has taken root, bring dignity where systems have denied it, and nurture love where conflict has scarred and divided.

May our giving be more than a ritual - may it be a movement toward equity, a declaration that every life is sacred, a commitment to the flourishing of neighbor and stranger alike. Let this moment remind us that peace is something we build together - brick by brick, choice by choice, through generosity that heals and justice that restores.

With gratitude, we give. With courage, we act.

With hope, we wait for the world You are still shaping. Amen.

Scripture Matthew 3:1-6 | NRSVUE

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’”

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

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.

Communion Song *I Come with Joy*

1. I come with joy to meet my Lord, For - giv - en, loved, and
2. I come with Chris - tians far and near To find, as all are
3. As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, Each proud di - vi - sion
4. And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His pres - ence, al - ways
5. To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, We'll go our dif - ferent

free, In awe and won - der to re - call His
fed, The new com - mu - ni - ty of love In
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, And
near, Is in such friend - ship bet - ter known: We
ways, And as His peo - ple in the world, We'll

life laid down for me, His life laid down for me.
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, In Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
stran - gers now are friends, And stran - gers now are friends.
see and praise Him here, We see and praise Him here.
live and speak His praise, We'll live and speak His praise.

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.

Communion Interlude

Improvisation on *A Voice Cries Out* by Michael Joncas

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Holy One, we have tasted the bread of your presence and shared the cup of your hope. In this sacred meal, we have remembered that your peace is not just the absence of conflict, but the flourishing of justice, the healing of wounds, and the welcoming of all your children.

Empower us to carry this peace into a world longing for reconciliation: to speak words that calm, to act with courage for fairness, to embrace those who are marginalized and lift up those who are silenced.

May the peace of Christ - rooted in love, justice, and wholeness - guide our hearts and hands in this Advent season. Let it ripple outward from our community into every corner of creation. With gratitude for your abiding presence, we go forth to be instruments of your peace. Amen.

***Song of Parting** *Go Now in Peace*

***Benediction**

***God's Light Goes Forth**

***Music for Going Forth** *People Look East, The Time is Near*

Announcements

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

Our Communications Team is very active and is exploring all kinds of avenues. Please subscribe to our YouTube Channel today. Our YouTube Channel is [@parkwayuccstl](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 or cynthianouri@gmail.com

Journey to Bethlehem Gratitude

I just want to give a quick shout-out of appreciation to everyone who helped make *Journey to Bethlehem* possible. You all really brought alive that Christmas-spirit that I saw the children really enjoyed. You all rock! ~Gabriel

Speaker Series Occasional opportunities after worship at 11:15am "World Communion of Reformed Churches. Who are We and What is Our Mission," by Prof. Henry Kuo

TODAY | 11:15am | Heritage Room

Prof. Kuo is Associate Professor of Church History and Historical Theology at Eden Theological Seminary. Hailing from Taiwan, he is a leader in the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC). To that end, he moderates the WCRC's General Council's Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations Working Group. The WCRC actively supports theology, justice, church unity, and mission in more than 100 countries.

Prof. Kuo will recount his work with the WCRC and the Council's meeting this year in Thailand in October, helping our Speakers Series audience to learn what Protestants around the world are talking about and working towards in the future. Questions/comments, please speak to Richard Scherrer

9ofivetpr@gmail.com

Allegro Chorus Songs of the Season Concert

Hear more than 100 voices (including PUCCers Mary Akers and Deb Reinhardt), a handbell choir, and orchestra present music for Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa at 3pm **TODAY** in the beautifully decorated sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood (100 E. Adams). Audience members will delight in familiar carols and holiday classics by Irving Berlin. The concert is free but reservations are required.

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/483bdp8s> or use QR code.



Red Poinsettias

There are 15 red poinsettias available to sponsor our long tradition of beautiful poinsettias in the sanctuary two weeks before Christmas.

The plants may be taken home anytime after the 7:30pm Christmas Eve Service. Sign up will be on One Church, or scan/click QR code. The cost is \$10 payable to Parkway UCC by check or in One Church by credit card.

For more info, contact ccjcobb@aol.com



Prayer Corner an opportunity to pray with someone

Tuesday, December 9 | 8-10am | New Sanctuary

Drop-in Prayer Time. Kevin will be in the Prayer Corner in the Sanctuary.

Come on by if you'd like to pray together.

If you see someone else there, simply wait a bit in the Gathering Space.

Upcoming date: Saturday, January 10 from 7-9am

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

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 *Hope Restored* by Walter Brueggemann. It is a discussion on how the Scriptures promote hope through persistence, vision and holy inspiration. We will be discussing the second half of the book on Dec 9. TED will then be on Christmas Break until Jan 13.

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 for questions.

Tour Missouri History Museum's Mill Creek: Black Metropolis

Thursday, December 11 | 10am-2pm | 5700 Lindell Boulevard, St. Louis, 63112

Please join Adventurers on a trip to the Missouri History Museum. We'll meet at the church at 9:30am for carpooling, or at 10am at the Museum (5700 Lindell Boulevard). We'll tour the new Mill Creek: Black Metropolis exhibit, among other things. Afterward, the group will head to lunch TBA. Come join in on the fun and meet some other PUCCers.

From its origin at the turn of the 20th century to its destruction in 1959 in the name of urban renewal, Mill Creek Valley was a center for Black life in St. Louis. With a population of nearly 20,000 people and more than 5,000 buildings, Mill Creek was a city within a city, noted for its vibrant commercial life, rich culture, and popular entertainment venues. How is it, then, that almost no trace of Mill Creek remains today? This exhibit explores the rich history of a St. Louis neighborhood that historians have likened to New York's legendary Harlem. It was the home of St. Louis's major Black newspapers, the offices of numerous Black professionals, a center of social activism, and the birthplace of ragtime. All this richness thrived amid and despite racial segregation, providing African Americans common ground and the refuge from the daily slights and indignities of a stark color divide in 20th-century St. Louis. For more info, contact Jackie Eiffert

jeiffert2@gmail.com

Coffee and Conversation at Panera

Friday, December 12 | 10am | Panera on Manchester Road in Des Peres

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

No need to RSVP - just show up! Upcoming date: Monday, January 12 at 2pm

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

Meeting Our Neighbors: Congregation Temple Israel

Friday, December 12 | 6-8:30pm | 1 Rabbi Alvan D Rubin Dr. STL, MO 63141

Join our Jewish neighbors as interfaith guests as we

gather with Congregation Temple Israel for their

Hannukah Shabbat followed by a conversation with the rabbi. Scan or click QR code for more info and to RSVP.

For more information Contact James at 314-792-7177 or

jamescommineillis@archstl.org



AWOL (Adventurous Women Out Late) - Holiday Concert

Sunday, December 14 | Panera then Lindbergh High School

Join the 200+ voice St. Louis County Community Chorus (including our own Michelle Brueggemann) and guest orchestra for their 50th Anniversary holiday concert, *My Voice Will Light the Way*. Get in the holiday spirit with a selection of wonderful music.

We will be attending the 2pm show. Some of us will lunch at Panera after church and go on to the show together!

Please RSVP to Carmen cfbum@charter.net

(If you aren't available at 2pm, you could go to the 4:30pm show.)

Tickets are \$20 and are available online or at the door.

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: **December 16, and January 6.**

A *Clue*-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

Open House New Kitchen Warming at Christmastime

Sunday, December 21 | 1-5pm | Greg Schmelig's place...

2020 Washington Ave, Unit 514, St. Louis, MO 63103

My extended family will be here and I wanted my church family to join as they are able. Please bring an appetizer or shareable dessert if able... but especially bring cheer. Come, stop by and stay for a while...but at 5 pm...go home. Love you... but by 5 pm I'll be done. Beer, wine and soda will be provided.

Peace, joy and love! Greg Schmelig ~greg_schmelig@hotmail.com

All-gender Restroom

As we continue to live into our commitment as a welcoming Open and Affirming church, the women's restroom to the right of the sanctuary is being modified to become an all-gender restroom. Privacy strips on the stalls will ensure privacy for the comfort of ALL members and guests. The women's restroom was chosen due to the ability to create an appropriate space by implementing a few practical adaptations; the men's room is not currently being altered. Gendered restrooms are still located in the education wing.

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; and Evelyn Buretta burettaevelyn@gmail.com

Advent Daily Devotions

Copies of *Soon and Very Soon*, our 2025 Advent daily devotional guide, are available in the Gathering Space today. Please take one per household.

We hope these devotions from our UCC *God is Still Speaking* writers will help you to be present to the season. Each day has a scripture, a personal reflection and a prayer.

May these Advent days wrap you in the warmth of God's immediacy!

We also send our own PUCC daily devotions for Advent via email each day. If you aren't receiving these and would like to, please email kevin@parkwayucc.org

Every day of the year, our denomination puts out a daily devotion from our UCC Stillspeaking Writers Group. Take a look and sign up if you'd like – <https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional/>

Looking for another way to support immigrants and refugees this Christmas season?

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

Christmas Gathering Meal, Games, Singing and Santa

Thursday, December 25 | 2-5pm | Fellowship Hall

This is a family-friendly gathering to enjoy each other and the holiday. Feel free to bring members of your family and come enjoy with us. Please RSVP with Pam Walker by 12/18 at pamandbrenda95@yahoo.com

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.

A Christmas Carol *Christina Rossetti*

In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter
Long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him
Nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When He comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty,
Jesus Christ.

Prayer List

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Celebrations

This Advent Journey of hope, peace, joy and love!
Individuals and families preparing for the holidays.

Concerns

Individuals and families grieving at the holidays.

Rebecca - healing after brain surgery on December 1 (Bowermaster).

April/Jameson Tallyn Family - grieving her grandma's sudden death; funeral last Saturday in Sikeston.

Family/friends of David Klausmeyer - grieving (Reinhardt).

Alex Wiseman - seeking diagnosis/treatment for health concern.

Kate Moran - treatments have begun; exorbitant cost (Borgmann).

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

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

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.

Karla 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).

Richard - treatments for congestive heart failure (Greg Schmelig's dad).

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

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

Debbie Sutcliffe - potentially facing another cancer diagnosis (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 [birthdate: 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.

Advent Second Mile 2025

Support local and denominational efforts at caring for people via
Circle of Concern | Emmaus Homes | PROMO | The Christmas Fund

Circle of Concern

Serving four west St. Louis County school districts as well as areas of Jefferson County, *Circle of Concern* provides wholesome foods and a host of other services to more than 2,000 individuals monthly as their needs continue to grow.

Circle's tagline is, "Feeding families is just the beginning." They know that when a family is struggling to put food on the table, there are likely other needs as well. So they offer wraparound support for eligible households: wholesome foods, emergency rent and utility assistance, counseling, career mentorship, scholarships, kid programs and more! These programs work together to take a little off clients' financial plates, and help them to get back on their feet. Along with a caring community of volunteers, donors and community partners, they help families move from crisis and uncertainty to stability.

Learn more: <https://www.circleofconcern.org/>

Emmaus Homes

Adults with developmental disabilities find the services, support and care they need to reach their highest potential at *Emmaus Homes*. Through a variety of residential, habilitative and recreational programs, each client receives individualized care based on their needs, interests and goals. With a large number of individual Emmaus homes spread out across the metro area, their clients receive stable and supportive housing, home management training, budget tutoring, grocery shopping and meal prep assistance, as well as physical, occupational, speech and behavior therapy services – all so they can live their best lives.

Learn more: <https://emmaushomes.org/>

PROMO

Missouri's statewide LGBTQ+ public policy and advocacy organization was formed in 1986 in response to all of the legal and political attacks on queer persons in Missouri and throughout the country. Unfortunately, with an increase in proposed and enacted anti-LGBTQ+ legislation today, the need for organizations like *PROMO* continue to be needed. Their four focus areas are health and wellness; transgender justice; youth and education; and older LGBTQ+ adults. PUCC has been a satellite location for some of their volunteer trainings and will continue to be in 2026.

Learn more: <https://promomissouri.org/>

The Christmas Fund

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. Your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need. Thank you!

Learn more: <https://www.pbucc.org/index.php/christmas-fund-home>

CLEAN OUT YOUR CLOSET

PUCC youth and Eco Stewards are planning a FUNDdrive! They will be collecting clothing, household textiles, dishes, small appliances, books, media, and more to raise money to support our Pollenator Garden and teen mission trips. Start thinking of gently used items you can donate to help these causes and begin the New Year with a bit less clutter.



Wondering

Quinn G. Caldwell

The sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. – Malachi 4:2 (NRSV)

I'd be willing to wager quite a bit that: (1) you haven't read much of Malachi before, and (2) you've sung chunks of it a million times. In many Christian Bibles, it's the last book before the Christian part begins, and that's no accident. If you were reading straight through from Genesis to Revelation, you'd read about the arrival of the Sun of Righteousness, turn the page, and there would be Matthew saying, "An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham..."

It's clear who the people that stitched the Bible together think the healing-winged Sun of Righteousness is. Which is, of course, the reason that third verse of "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" goes the way it does. (I just know you've been wondering.)

There's a reason to appreciate Malachi besides understanding where some carol got its words, though. Pretty much the whole book is an argument between God and the people, in which they accuse one another of all manner of neglect. There's no fulfillment in the book itself of God's promise; it would be hundreds of years before Jesus showed up to convince Matthew and others that he was the answer.

Which is to say: if you're currently fighting with God, if you're still waiting for the dawn, if you're still wondering where righteousness is, if healing is still in the future for you this Advent, if you're wobbling instead of leaping, Malachi feels you. If you're wondering whether God's promises are ever going to come really true, then you are in the good company of millions upon millions of God's followers who have wondered the same thing. Perhaps like Matthew you're bone-deep-convinced that everything's taken care of. But if you're not, you're not alone.

Prayer

God, I'm not sure the Sun of Righteousness has come over the horizon yet, but I'm going to sing like it's true anyway. Amen.

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

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

