



OUT OF THE MOUNTAIN OF DESPAIR,  
A STONE OF HOPE



PARKWAY  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

January 18, 2026

## Contents

- 3 Birthdays and Anniversaries
- 4 10:00am Worship
- 12 Announcements
- 19 Prayer List

## **Limitless Love | Courageous Action | Spirited Inquiry**

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### **Purpose Statement**

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

### **Congregational Statement**

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

## **PARKWAY UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST**

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John Nourse, *Pastor Emeritus*

# Welcome to Parkway

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

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

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

## Worship Serving Today

**Scripture Reader** is Deb Carter.

**Flowers** are given by Ralf and Cindy Wessel in memory of their son, Tyler.

**Treats** are provided by Nancy Litzinger.

**Our Prayer Chaplain** this morning is Pam Walker



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

1/20 Cora Patel

1/21 Nancy Darland

1/22 Alan Stein

1/22 Dawn Jones-Goldstein

1/23 Kathy Burcham

1/23 Paul Sableman

1/24 Cheryl Schrenker

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, January 18, 2026 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & YouTube Live

**Prelude** Selections from Schubert's *Unfinished Symphony*, Arranged by John Thompson

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

**Meditation** Quotes from *Martin Luther King Jr*

We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.

Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable.

Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.

**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** *You are Welcome Here*

You are welcome here, no matter who you are, no matter where you are, on life's journey. You are welcome here, no matter who you are, come and join with us, in our United Church of Christ.

**Scripture** Psalm 40:1-11 | Common English Bible (CEB)

I put all my hope in the Lord.

God leaned down to me;  
and listened to my cry for help.

God lifted me out of the pit of death,  
out of the mud and filth,  
and set my feet on solid rock.

God steadied my legs.  
God put a new song in my mouth,  
a song of praise for our God.  
Many people will learn of this and be amazed;  
they will trust the Lord.  
Those who put their trust in the Lord,  
who pay no attention to the proud  
or to those who follow lies,  
are truly happy!  
You, Lord my God!  
You've done so many things -  
your wonderful deeds and your plans for us -  
no one can compare with you!  
If I were to proclaim and talk about all of them,  
they would be too numerous to count!  
You don't relish sacrifices or offerings;  
you don't require entirely burned offerings or compensation offerings -  
but you have given me ears!  
So I said, "Here I come!  
I'm inscribed in the written scroll.  
I want to do your will, my God.  
Your Instruction is deep within me."  
I've told the good news of your righteousness  
in the great assembly.  
I didn't hold anything back -  
as you well know, Lord!  
I didn't keep your righteousness only to myself.  
I declared your faithfulness and your salvation.  
I didn't hide your loyal love and trustworthiness  
from the great assembly.  
So now you, Lord -  
don't hold back any of your compassion from me.  
Let your loyal love and faithfulness always protect me.

### \*Call to Worship

One:	We gather today drawn by a dream - a dream of justice rolling like waters, of love strong enough to change the world. (Amos 5:24)
Many:	<b>We come because “injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”</b> <b>We come because God calls us to belong to one another.</b>
One:	Scripture reminds us: “What does the Holy One require of you but to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8)
Many:	<b>We come ready to walk - not ahead of one another, not above one another, but together.</b>
One:	Dr. King taught us that “the moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends toward justice.”

<b>Many:</b>	<b>We trust that are because God is already at work - in truth spoken, in courage shared, in love practiced daily.</b>
<b>One:</b>	Jesus calls us to love our neighbors, to welcome the stranger, to set the captives free. (Luke 4:18; Matthew 22:39)
<b>Many:</b>	<b>So we worship not to escape the world, but to be changed for it.</b>
<b>One:</b>	Let us worship the God whose Spirit dreams with us, walks with us, and bends us toward justice.
<b>Many:</b>	<b>Let us worship with our hearts, our voices, and our lives.</b>
<b>All:</b>	<b>Let us worship our God together - Creator, Christ and Spirit.</b>

**\*Song** *Make Me A Channel of Your Peace*

1. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. \_\_\_\_\_ Where  
 2. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. \_\_\_\_\_ Where  
 4. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. \_\_\_\_\_ It

there is ha-tred, let me bring your love. \_\_\_\_\_ Where  
 there's de-spair in life, let me bring hope. \_\_\_\_\_ Where  
 is in par-don - ing that we are par - doned, \_\_\_\_\_ in

there is in - ju - ry, your par-don, Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ — and  
 there is dark - ness, \_\_\_\_\_ on - ly light, \_\_\_\_\_ — and  
 giv - ing of our - selves that we re - ceive, \_\_\_\_\_ and in

1 2, 4 Fine

where there's doubt, true faith in you. \_\_\_\_\_ —  
 where there's sad - ness, ev - er joy. \_\_\_\_\_ —  
 dy - ing that we're born to e-ter-nal life. \_\_\_\_\_ —

3. Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek \_\_\_\_\_ so  
 much to be con-soled as to con-sole. \_\_\_\_\_ To be  
 un-derstood as to un-der-stand, \_\_\_\_\_ to be  
 loved as to love with all my soul. \_\_\_\_\_

D.C.

### \*Opening Prayer

Holy One, we come into this space carrying what weighs heavy - grief we cannot name, anger we have been told to soften, and exhaustion from a world that keeps wounding the same people again and again. We lament the lives diminished by injustice, the voices silenced by systems, the bodies marked by racism, poverty, violence, and neglect. We lament not only what is done, but what is ignored, excused, and allowed to continue. You are the God who hears lament - who listened to enslaved people crying out in Egypt, who gathered the tears of the exiles, who wept with those who mourned. So, we trust that our grief belongs here, too. And yet, O God, your call does not end with sorrow. You call us toward equity, toward repair, toward justice that is not abstract but embodied, lived, and shared. You ask us not only *who is hurting*, but *why* - and who benefits from the way things are. You invite us to move beyond charity into transformation, beyond comfort into courage. Open our hearts to feel deeply, our minds to see clearly, and our hands to act boldly. Shape us into people who do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly - not someday, but now. We offer this prayer trusting that even our lament can become movement, and that you are already at work bending us toward liberation and beloved community. 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 5<sup>th</sup> grade will then go to Room 12, and youth from 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade will go to Room 15. For children in Room 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 to the Fellowship Hall for Grace Place after class.

### **Blessing the Children** *Jesus Loves Me*

**Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so;  
Little ones to him belong, they are weak but he is strong**

**Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes Jesus loves me!**

**Yes, Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so.**

**Jesus loves me still today, walking with me on my way,  
Wanting as a friend to give, life and love to all who live**

**Yes, Jesus loves me...**

### **Scripture** Passages of Lament and Hope

How long, Lord, will I call for help and you not listen? (Habakkuk 1:2)

*When the righteous cry out, the Lord listens; God delivers them from all their troubles.* (Psalm 34:17)

I say to God, my rock: 'Why have you forgotten me?' (Psalm 42:9)

*Even if a mother forgets her child, I won't forget you. Look, I have inscribed you on my palms.* (Isaiah 49:15–16a)

My God! My God! Why have you left me all alone? (Psalm 22:1)

*The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those whose spirits are crushed.* (Psalm 34:18)

How long will you forget me, Lord? Forever? (Psalm 13:1)

*The Lord doesn't reject forever... God has compassion according to the greatness of God's loyalty.* (Lamentations 3:31–32)

Lord, why do you reject me? Why do you hide your face from me?

(Psalm 88:14)

*Arise! Shine! Your light has come; the Lord's glory has shone upon you.*

(Isaiah 60:1)

Lord, why do you stand so far away? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble? (Psalm 10:1)

*But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.* (Amos 5:24)

### **Moment of Silent Reflection**

### **Sermon**

## A Time of Prayer *Sweet Hour of Prayer*

1 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! that calls me from a world of care,  
2 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! the joys I feel, the bliss I share  
3 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! whose wings shall my pe - ti - tion bear

and bids me at my Ma-ker's throne let all my needs and wants be known.  
of those whose anx-i-ous spir - its burn with strong de-sires for your re - turn!  
to One whose truth and faith-ful - ness en - gage the wait - ing soul to bless.

In sea - sons of dis - tress and grief, my soul has of - ten found re - lief,  
With them I has-ten to the place where I would know my Sav - ior's face,  
And since I'm bid to seek God's face, be - lieve God's word, and trust God's grace,

and oft es-caped the tempt-er's snare by your re - turn, sweet hour of prayer!  
And glad - ly take my sta - tion there, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!  
I'll cast a - way my ev - ery care, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!

## 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.]

### Leadership Moment PUCC Leadership and Organization

### 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 *Take My Hand, Precious Lord*

## \*Response *They'll Know We are Christians, v2-3*



1. We are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,  
2. We will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,  
3. We will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,  
4. All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,



we are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,  
we will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,  
we will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,  
and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,



and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:  
and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:  
and we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's pride:  
and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

*Refrain*



And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our love.



yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

## \*Prayer of Dedication

Holy One of justice and love, receive these gifts and the lives behind them. Use what we give to bring dignity where it is denied, equity where it is missing, and hope where it is fragile. Shape us, too – that we would choose courage over comfort and to participate in your work of repair and restoration. Bless these offerings and our becoming. Amen.

## \*Song of Parting God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple  
2 From the e - vils that sur - round us and as - sail the  
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to  
4 Set our feet on loft - y plac - es; gird our lives that  
5 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your power; crown your an - cient church - 's sto - ry;  
Sav - ior's ways, from the fears that long have bound us—  
your con - trol. Shame our reck - less, self - ish glad - ness,  
they may be ar - mored with all Christ - like grac - es,  
we de - plore; let the search for your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
free our hearts for faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
in the fight to set us free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
make our bro - ken spir - its whole, make our bro - ken spir - its whole.  
in the quest for lib - er - ty, in the quest for lib - er - ty.  
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

## \*Benediction

## \*God's Light Goes Forth

## \*Music for Going Forth

Improvisation on *Happy Birthday* by Stevie Wonder

# Announcements

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

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

## **Speaker Series Occasional opportunities after worship at 11:15am**

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

TODAY | 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? Richard Scherrer at [9ofivetpr@gmail.com](mailto:9ofivetpr@gmail.com)

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

Monday, January 19 | 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 or to sign up.

## **Girl Scout Sales**

Girl Scouts cookies are on sale at PUCC! Be on the lookout after worship to order some from our PUCCer Girl Scouts to support them, as well as purchase some extra ones for PUCC collegians that we'll send to later. More details on how to purchase online are in the eNews or reach out to

[gabriel@parkwayucc.org](mailto:gabriel@parkwayucc.org)

## **Lunch with Marthoma Congregation after worship Jan 25**

Plan to stay after worship for a meal, friendship and a brief mission project! It's Potluck, so please plan to bring something to share. You can drop it off in the kitchen before 10am. The ovens will be on low if you need to keep your item warm. Marthoma's worship service will end at 11:30am and they come over to the Fellowship Hall from the Historic Sanctuary right away. As we wait for them, we have some table conversations to help PUCCers get to know one another even better. As a faith community, it is important that we deepen our connections with one another. The conversations will be a blessing. Come!

## 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 as we read and discuss *Tom Lake*, a novel by Ann Patchett, in two more sessions on **January 20 and February 3**. We'd love to have you! In the spring of 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Lara's three daughters return to the family's orchard in Northern Michigan. While picking cherries, they beg their mother to tell them the story of her life years before at a theater company called Tom Lake. As Lara recalls the past, her daughters examine their own lives and relationship with their mother and are forced to reconsider the world and everything they thought they knew.

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)

## Ahsa-Ti Nu Music Concert

Thursday, January 22 | 7pm | 2525 S Jefferson Ave, St. Louis, MO 63104



Come enjoy a dynamic blend of soul, jazz, and intimate storytelling by queer artist and musician AhSa-Ti Nu – while helping to fund SQSH's (St. Louis Queer Support & Healing) work to recruit and train a new cohort of queer Peer Counselors. Scan or click QR code to register.

## Come Support PUCCer Youth Zoe Lyons in Swix

Friday, January 23 | 6:30-8pm | Kirkwood High School

Come show your support for PUCCer's very own Zoe as she stars in the student-led production of *Swix*. They'll be carpooling from the church at 6pm, but you're welcome to meet at the school. Ice Cream at Andy's afterwards!

Liz Lyons is leading this, so please RSVP with her at [lizardstifel@gmail.com](mailto:lizardstifel@gmail.com) to let her know you're coming! You can also click or scan the QR code.



PUCCer youth Avery also has a production as well you are invited to attend! *Night of One Acts*. St. Charles West High School; 7pm on Jan 23/24. 2pm on Jan 25

## Go AWOL this Winter – Adventurous Women Out Late

Saturday, January 24 | 4pm | Heritage Room

Join other PUCC women for a crafty/snacky late afternoon! PUCC will provide an 18" wire heart frame and some craft items to peruse. Please bring other craft items to share: cloth, old clothes to cut up, felt, baubles, ribbons, fake flowers, or anything else you have cluttering up your house and you might picture on a heart wreath... and a glue gun if you have one!)



\$10 donation requested for supplies when you sign up via One Church. Scan or click QR code to register.

Please bring an appetizer or finger food to share also! (Stay afterwards for the ONA photo exhibit kick-off beginning at 7pm that same evening!)

Look for other upcoming events:

**Sunday, February 22 @2pm Primary Trust at The Repertory Theater.**

**Theater.** Join us as we experience the winner of the 2024 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, Eboni Booth's hilarious and heartwarming play offers up a modern, tiki-lit homage to slices of Americana such as *Our Town*, *Harvey*, and *It's a Wonderful Life*. Kenneth's predictable life - Mai Tais at his favorite bar and a steady job at a local bookstore - begins to unravel, forcing him to confront a



childhood loss and the uncertainties of adulthood. With guidance from an imaginary friend, a kind waitress, and a splash of liquid courage, he discovers that trust, love, and friendship - much like the perfect Mai Tai - are best mixed in unexpected ways. Tickets are \$40. Click or scan QR code to register.

**Friday, March 20 @5:30pm Dinner and Oscar-nominated Film.**

Dine at Pierce Creek (<https://www.piercecreekstl.com/>), then enjoy an acclaimed movie (TBA) around the corner at AMC Crève Coeur. Please RSVP so we know how many tickets to purchase. (Carmen will purchase tix and you can Venmo her or give her cash.)

**Sunday, April 19 @12pm Lunch and Spring Stroll.** Bring your lunch to church and we'll eat together after worship and adult education (ECO Stewards are planning something to celebrate Earth Day), then carpool to the Missouri Botanical Garden to enjoy the spring flowers! Feel free to meet us there if that is better for you. We will pay our admission at the door since some people have memberships.

**Sunday, May 17 @6pm Community Choir Concert.** Enjoy one another's company and a great concert with our own Michelle Brueggemann at the renovated Powell Hall! Ticket prices TBA -- link to purchase will be shared as soon as available.

Questions? Contact Carmen Bumgarner - [cfbum@charter.net](mailto:cfbum@charter.net)

**Authentic Selves: Celebrating Trans and Nonbinary People and Their Families**

Saturday, January 24 | 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 January 24 through February 8. Opening Night Reception features guest Jordon Braxton, a longtime St. Louis advocate for trans rights and a member of the St. Louis City HIV Health Services Planning Council. Refreshments will be served. A second opening will be the next morning, January 25 from 9-10am with the opportunity to view the exhibit and enjoy a continental breakfast before worship. Please scan or click QR code to RSVP by Jan 23. For more info, contact Debbie Reinhardt [deborahreinhardt@att.net](mailto:deborahreinhardt@att.net)



## Prayer for Christian Unity - 2026

Sunday, January 25 | 7pm | 12136 Olive Blvd, Creve Coeur, MO 63141

Join Christians from local St. Louis communities in prayer for Christian unity at St. Monica Catholic Church.

Drawing from the Christian Churches of Armenian, this year's prayer highlights the story of Noah and the covenant made between all people and God. The theme for the Prayer for Christian Unity 2026 is taken from Ephesians 4:4, "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling." This hope of salvation in Jesus unites all believers. RSVP is optional but appreciated by scanning or clicking the QR code.



## 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 next meeting is **Tuesday, Jan 27**. This will be our second session on the book *Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books* by Kirsten Miller and we will be discussing Chapters 12 to 24. This novel will make you laugh out loud but it also brings to life how much books can change how you think and look at life. The author works in pertinent issues of our times including censorship, racism, homophobia and misogyny among others.

We read a variety of books in TED related to social justice, spirituality, different faiths, history, relationships, current events and nature. Bring a dish to share for the potluck & 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.

## Eco Stewards January Newsletter Live Lightly For the Planet

We encourage Parkway members and friends to join the Parkway Eco Stewards' FUNDrive, which is collecting clothing and household items. By participating, you will recover space, shoppers will find bargains, and the world will benefit from lower carbon emissions.

It helps the environment to donate used clothing. According to Sachi Mulkey, a climate science journalist, and Rebecca McCarthy, a Grist climate news fellow, fashion is the third most polluting industry after energy and food. The industry generates as much as 10% of all planet warming emissions.

Initially, certain fibers are environmentally taxing. Cotton, grown from seed, requires large amounts of insecticide and water. (Hemp is a more sustainable natural fiber.) Then there are petroleum-based fabrics, like polyester. Manufacturers of these fabrics pollute with PFAS, (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), forever chemicals that don't degrade and have been found in drinking water, farmland and our bodies. Finally, fabric dyeing and processing causes shedding of micro plastics and toxins, such as heavy metals, into our waterways.

Clothing production also creates waste from overproduction. Particularly as stores shift to fast and hyper fast fashion, fashion cycles accelerate, manufacturers overproduce to keep expenses down, stores are encouraged to overorder. The clothing trade generates some 170 billion garments per year, half of which wind up being thrown out within that year. This waste despoils the world's land, air and seas.

What can we do about this? Participate in Parkway's FUNDrive! We accept the following materials: clothing, household textiles, small household goods, books, and media. Bags and boxes will be accepted until March 7, with funds going towards the Youth Group Mission Trips and Eco-Stewards Pollinator Garden. Drop off bags and boxes in the Fellowship Hall, to your right, when you walk in on Sundays. If dropping off items during the week, please coordinate with Gabriel at [gabriel@parkwayucc.org](mailto:gabriel@parkwayucc.org) for a time that works. Questions-contact Polly Rutherford, [pollyrutherford@gmail.com](mailto:pollyrutherford@gmail.com)

[Some have asked about donating furniture. This drive does not include furniture, so contact *Home Sweet Home* - <https://homesweethomestl.org/>]

## **Family Iftar Dinners be a guest of a Muslin family to experience a fast-breaking together**

As the Holy Month of Ramadan approaches, the Turkish American Society of Missouri (TASOM) warmly invites you to participate in a Home-Based Family Iftar Dinner with a local Muslim host family.

Please RSVP by scanning or clicking QR code by February 1. After matching you with a host family, they'll share details about your host's address, contact information, and background. This event is free of charge and open to everyone, regardless of faith. Join TASOM for an evening of delightful food, meaningful conversation, and new friendships. They look forward to connecting you with a welcoming family in your community!



## **Rooted in Faith and Justice: Christian Calls to Conscience & Cries for Peace in Palestine**

Thursdays, starting February 5 | 6pm | Zoom

In the December, the Church Council adopted a motion to the affirmation of certain principles from the General Synod 35 Resolution "Declaration for an End to Genocide in Palestine." We *affirm* that all are made in God's image and are deserving of life free from oppression, persecution, and violence. We *reject* any theology or ideology including Christian Zionism, Supercessionism, antisemitism, anti-Arab, anti-Palestinian, or anti-Islam bias that would privilege or exclude any one nation, race, culture or religion within God's universal economy of grace.

Parkway United Church of Christ is encouraged to receive this Resolution as a prophetic call and commit to: Stand in solidarity with oppressed people, domestic and abroad, and to denounce any atrocities whether that be through the context of public witness, legislative advocacy, legal action, or non-violent direct action; and denounce hate and violence in all its forms including that

rooted in Islamophobia, anti-Palestinian and anti-Arab bias, and antisemitism, as contrary to the teachings of Jesus and the love of God for all humanity.

In an effort to live into this, we'll be offering a five-week reading club of *Rooted in Faith and Justice* over Zoom. The book offers a powerful and enlightening perspective through the eyes of Palestinian Christian leaders and thinkers, helping us to understand the complexities and injustices of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Each week, we'll cover a different section, starting with section 1. Click or scan QR code to get a copy. Let Gabriel Requadt know you'll be attending by emailing him at [gabriel@parkwayucc.org](mailto:gabriel@parkwayucc.org)



## **Standing with Women's Reproductive Rights**

Parkway UCC has a proud history of standing with people who have been negatively affected by the prevailing sentiment and/or political climate. In late 2024 Church Council voted to support several Synod resolutions to focus on making a difference in our community. A small group met this week-end to discuss how we can live into "Resolution: Denouncing the Dobbs Decision and Proclaiming Abortion as Healthcare." We are planning several small group events in February and March. There will also be an after-church presentation on **March 1**. If you want to be a part of planning the community events, please contact Nancy Litzinger or Karen Mariani at [nancywlitzinger@gmail.com](mailto:nancywlitzinger@gmail.com) or [ksmariani59@gmail.com](mailto:ksmariani59@gmail.com).

We believe individual health choices should be individual rights. We ask that you read an excellent summary of the struggle in the state of Missouri today by scanning or clicking the QR code. The Missouri Independent, a non-profit state newspaper reported on 1/9/26 about a trial, started Monday in Kansas City, litigating the parameters of Missouri's new reproductive rights amendment.



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

Wednesday, February 11 | 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.

### **Upcoming dates:**

Tuesday, March 24 from 3-5pm;  
Wednesday, April 29 from 6-8pm;  
Monday, May 18 from 1-3pm;  
Wednesday, June 17 from 9-11am

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, February 23 | 10am | Panera on Manchester Road in Des Peres  
Join us for a beverage and sweet treat. Come connect! No need to RSVP - just show up!

### Upcoming dates:

Wednesday, March 25 at 2pm      Tuesday, May 12 at 2pm

Friday, April 17 at 10am      Monday, June 29 at 7pm

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

## 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 so 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 call to create a just world for all.*

## Reminder about Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)

As the year begins, many retirees will be required to take Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from their Individual Retirement Accounts 2026. You may give up to \$111,000 in 2026 from your IRA to qualified charities, including Parkway, and these Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) have tax advantages. Your gift may satisfy all or part of your RMD, resulting in less taxable income. In addition to reducing taxes, making QCDs may in some situations lower Medicare premiums or even cause less taxation of Social Security.

To make a QCD, the donation must go directly from the custodian of your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to Parkway UCC, as the charitable recipient. That is, you may not make a personal withdrawal from your IRA and then pass that on to Parkway; only contributions made directly from the IRA to Parkway qualify as QCDs. Generally, the procedure for making a QCD is to contact the administrator of your IRA and ask that a gift be made directly from the IRA to Parkway. If you have check-writing features on your IRA, you can write a check on the IRA directly to Parkway.

The funds must be removed from your account and deposited by the recipient by December 31. Parkway will provide you with a written receipt for your gift made through your IRA. You can consider establishing a continuing QCD over a series of years. For example, you might wish to create a QCD of \$3000 in each of five years. This would result in a contribution of \$15000 over the five years with the tax advantages described above.

If you wish to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution, we recommend that you consult with your tax or legal advisor to make sure you have followed the proper procedures, and that the QCD fits with your tax and estate planning objectives.

# Prayer List

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

## Celebrations

**Alvaro** - as he finished his semester here with Mike & Gerry Rogers.

## Concerns

**Diane Doty** - cancer diagnosis; care plan being created (Grant's mom).

**Jaden** - born premature on 12/8; healing from lung surgery (Diane Brost's grandson).

**Carol and Harold Cobb** - as she prepares for hip surgery on Jan 20.

**Carl and Marsha Ramey** - dealing with his colon cancer diagnosis.

**Edward Calcaterra** - living with esophageal cancer (Litzinger).

**The grief and groaning of Minneapolis** and the nation over the death of *Renee Nicole Good*.

**Ongoing chaos/grief in the Middle East** - including Iran.

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

**The people and leaders of Venezuela.**

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

## Continuing

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

**Jeff Wentworth** - nearing the end of his life; hospice care (Grove).

**Howard** - just diagnosed with cancer of the tongue (Svenson).

**Senobia and Joe Martin** - grieving their daughter; Joe is ill (Grove).

**Derek** - end stage alcoholism; grace for his father David (Akers).

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

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

**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.

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

**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).

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

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

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

**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]

**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.**

\* **Mona Herberg** has completed her time with us after many years at PUCC. She was our full-time office administrator beginning in 2010 and was most recently handling our website and graphic design. She has been working from home for the last few years. If you would like to send her a warm note of gratitude and blessing, please ask **kevin@parkwayucc.org** for her address. Thank you.

## **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.