

 **PARKWAY**
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



www.parkwayucc.org

February 1, 2026

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Limitless Love | Courageous Action | Spirited Inquiry

Purpose Statement

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

Congregational Statement

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

PARKWAY UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

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John Nourse, *Pastor Emeritus*

Welcome to Parkway

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

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

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

Worship Serving Today

Scripture Reader is Michelle Brueggemann.

Flowers are given by Cindy Nouri in memory of her mother's birthday.

Treats are provided by Mary Joy, Chiwala and Mwila Kaloto.

Our Prayer Chaplain this morning is Lynn Mark.



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

2/1 Randy Beck

2/5 Emily Oehler

2/2 Michael Zoller

2/5 Elise Bowman

2/3 Kayla Williams

2/6 Dana Schrenker

2/4 Alexa Waddell

2/7 James Milam

2/7 Sharon Lowenthal

4th Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, February 1, 2026 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & YouTube Live

Prelude *The Snow is Dancing* by Claude Debussy

Welcome Let us know you are here!

Meditation We all want progress, but if you're on the wrong road, progress means doing an about-turn and walking back to the right road; in that case, the one who turns back soonest is the most progressive. ~C. S. Lewis

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 wel - come here, no mat-ter
who you are, no mat-ter where you are, on life's
jour - ney, You are wel - come here,
no mat-ter who you are, come and
join with us, in our U -
ni - - ted Church of Christ,

Scripture Psalm 15 | Inclusive Language Psalter

God, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill? Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, who speaks the truth from their heart. There is no guile upon their tongue; they do no evil to their friend; they do not heap contempt upon their neighbor. In their sight the wicked is rejected, but they honor those who are in awe of the Lord. They have sworn to do no wrong and do not take back their word. They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take a bribe against the innocent. Whoever does these things shall never be overthrown.

*Call to Worship

One:	Blessed are the poor in spirit, for God's kindom is already near.
Many:	Blessed are those who mourn, for God does not look away from our grief.
One:	Blessed are the gentle, the ones who choose love over domination.
Many:	Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice, for God is still shaping the world through them.
One:	Today, we gather at the waters that name us and at the table that nourishes us.
Many:	We come not because we have it all figured out, but because we are hungry for grace.
One:	Come - to remember who we are and to practice mercy,
Many:	to be filled again with love that makes us brave.
All:	Let us worship our God together - Creator, Christ and Spirit

*Song Fairest Lord Jesus | #306 Red Hymnal



1. Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Rul - er of all na - ture,
2. Fair are the mead - ows, Fair - er still the wood - lands,
3. Fair is the sun - shine, Fair - er still the moon - light,



O Thou of God to earth come down, Thee will I cher - ish,
Robed in the bloom-ing garb of spring: Je - sus is fair - er,
And all the twin - kling, star - ry host: Je - sus shines bright - er,



Thee will I hon - or, Thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.
Je - sus is pur - er, Who makes the woe-ful heart to sing.
Je - sus shines pur - er, Than all the an-gels heaven can boast.

*Opening Prayer

Holy One, you bless what the world often overlooks. You call 'beloved' those who feel small, weary, or unsure. Today, at the waters of baptism, remind us that we are claimed - not by fear or failure, but by love deeper than we can name. Wash us again in the truth that we belong to one another.

Today, at the communion table, feed our hunger for justice, our longing for connection, our need for hope. May this bread and cup strengthen us to live the Beatitudes beyond these walls - to show mercy, to make peace, to stand with those the world calls last.

Bless us, O God, not so we can be comfortable, but so we can be courageous. Not so we can be certain, but so we can be faithful. Gather us, shape us, send us - as people of the water and the table, following in the ways of Jesus. 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 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 *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. Yes Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so.**

Sacrament of Baptism

Invitation, Questions and Promises

Child: Payton Josephine Nienhaus

Parents: Rebecca Palmgren and Justin Nienhaus

Godparents: Emily Susina and Ricky Nienhaus

Congregation

One: Jesus Christ calls us to offer the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support and care to Payton, Becca and Justin as they all live and grow in Christ?

All: We promise our love, support, and care!

Act of Baptism and Baptismal Prayer

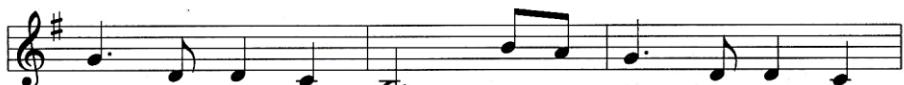
The Right Hand of Fellowship

Gifts from the Church

Response I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry



1. I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be
3. When you heard the won - der of the Word, I was
5. In the mid - dle ag - es of your life, not too
7. I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be



there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you
there to cheer you on. You were raised to praise the
old, no long - er young, I'll be there to guide you
there when you are old, I re - joiced the day you

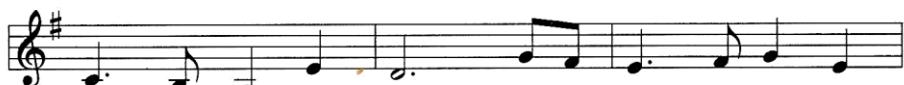
Fine



were bap - tized to see your life un - fold.
liv - ing Lord to whom you now be - long.
through the night, com - plete what I've be - gun.
were bap - tized to see your life un - fold.



2. I was there when you were but a child with a
4. If you find some-one to share your time and you
6. When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you



faith to suit you well; in a blaze of light you
join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your
shut your wea - ry eyes, I'll be there as I have

D.C.



wan - dered off to find where de - mons dwell.
vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun.
al - ways been with just one more sur - prise.

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 offered by the First Sunday Choir. *Wonderfully Made (Naau i anga iaku)* by Ruru Maeva

I am fearfully made, and wonderfully made.

Marvelous are your works, that my soul knows very well, and I'll praise you all my days.

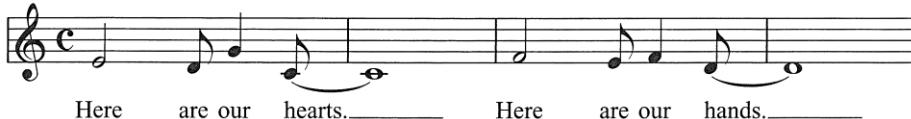
You are fearfully made, and wonderfully made.

Marvelous are God's works, that my soul knows very well, and I'll praise God all my days.

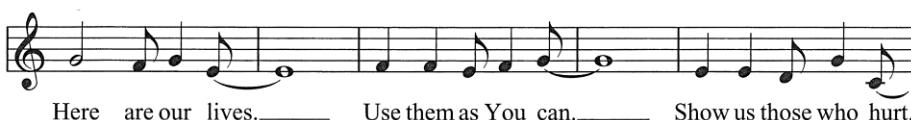
We are fearfully made, and wonderfully made.

Marvelous are God's works, that we now know very well, and we'll praise God all our days.

***Response** *Here are Our Hearts*



Here are our hearts._____ Here are our hands._____



Here are our lives._____ Use them as You can._____ Show us those who hurt.



Show us those in need._____ Show us how to serve.



Teach us how to see._____

***Prayer of Dedication**

Holy One, You have told us that the poor in spirit are close to Your heart, that those who mourn are held tenderly, that the gentle and merciful reveal Your strength. We offer these gifts knowing they are not signs of our righteousness, but tools for Your healing work. May what we give help lift the weary, feed the hungry, comfort the grieving, and make room for peace in a world that too often rewards hardness. Bless these offerings, and bless us in the giving - that our lives, like our resources, may reflect Your upside-down dream that love is power and justice is joy. Amen.

Scripture Matthew 5:1-12 | New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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 *Come, Share the Lord* | #2269 Blue Songbook

1. We gather here in Jesus' name, his love is the Lord who
(3. He joins us) here, he breaks the bread, the Lord who
(5. We'll gather) soon where angels sing; we'll see the

burn-ing in our hearts like liv-ing flame; for through the
pours the cup is ris-en from the dead; the one we
glo-ry of our Lord and com-ing King; now we an-

lov-ing Son the Fa-ther makes us one;
love the most is now our gra-cious host: { Come, take the
ti-ci-pate the feast for which we wait:

bread; come, drink the wine; come, share the Lord.

2. No one is a stran-ger here, — ev-ery-one be-
4. We are now a fam-i-ly of which the Lord is

longs; find-ing our for-give-ness here, we in
head; though un-seen he meets us here in the

turn for-give all wrongs. 3. He joins us
break-ing of the bread. 5. We'll gath-er

Call to 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.]

*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

 Improvisation on a *Reflective Theme in F Major*

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy One, at this table You have met us with grace, not achievement, with mercy, not measure. You have fed those who hunger and thirst for what is right and good, strengthened the meek, and reminded us that peacemakers bear Your family resemblance. In bread and cup, You have renewed the promises spoken over us in baptism - that we belong, that we are beloved, that we are called. Now send us out nourished and brave: to bless what the world curses, to choose mercy over indifference, to seek justice even when it costs us, and to trust that love is never wasted. May we live as people who have tasted blessing - and cannot keep it to ourselves. Amen.

*Song of Parting

 Help Us Accept Each Other | #358 Red Hymnal

1. Help us ac - cept each oth - er As Christ ac - cept-ed us;

2. Teach us, O Lord, Your les - sons, As in our dai - ly life

3. Let Your ac - cep - tance change us, So that we may be moved

4. Lord, for to - day's en - coun - ters With all who are in need,



Teach us as sis - ter, broth-er, Each per - son to em-brace.

We strug - gle to be hu - man And search for hope and faith.

In liv - ing sit - u - a - tions To do the truth in love;

Who hun - ger for ac - cep-tance, For righ - teous - ness and bread,



Be pres - ent, Lord, a - mong us And bring us to be - lieve.

Teach us to care for peo - ple, For all, not just for some,

To prac - tice Your ac - cep-tance Un - til we know by heart,

We need new eyes for see - ing, New hands for hold-ing on:



We are our - selves ac - cept-ed And meant to love and live.

To love them as we find them Or as they may be - come.

The ta - ble of for - give-ness And laugh - ter's heal-ing art.

Re - new us with Your Spir - it; Lord, free us, make us one!

***Benediction**

***God's Light Goes Forth**

***Music for Going Forth**

Speak Out: A Banner Party Create signs for future protests, vigils

TODAY | 1:30-4pm | Fellowship Hall

This is a drop-in event; come with ideas, materials (if possible*), and as many hands as possible; we will spread out on the tables and create signs and banners to be used at public gatherings.

- Children and friends are welcome.
- Participants take their signs and banners with them for future events.
- One or two fabric banners will be left at PUCC for use by anyone who wants to borrow them.

Seeking donations (or loan) of materials: ideas for slogans/messages, cardboard (corrugated and/or poster), markers, large-letter stencils, rulers, pencils, acrylic paint, inexpensive brushes, newspapers (to protect tables), sharp scissors, box cutters, masking/painter tape (for almost-instant lettering!), duct tape, packing tape, sturdy cardboard rolls or wooden pickets, one staple gun and staples... No fabric donations needed- I have plenty! Also snacks and drinks!

However, SEEKING iron-on adhesive cloth (NOT interfacing; must adhere on both sides), and loan of fabric scissors and 1-2 irons/ ironing boards.

If you want to put a (muted color) tattered family quilt or bedspread to a new use, though, it would make an awesome banner... or two, if cut in half. contact Karla Beck with questions or to donate at Madamebeck@yahoo.com

Family Iftar Dinners be a guest of a Muslim 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 **TODAY**.

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!



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

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 TAD as we read and discuss *Tom Lake*, a novel by Ann Patchett, in one more session on **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 Jackie Eiffert at jeiffert2@gmail.com

Calling all Adventurous Men Out Early!

Mark your calendars for **Thursday, February 5**. We go by "AMOE" for short - partly because it's easier to remember.

We occupy the Heritage Room at 9:15am on the first Thursday of every month. No agendas, no heavy lifting, just friendship and tasty pastries, and if it's your custom, dunked in hot coffee. Besides, what else do you have to do? All are welcome. Questions? Richard Scherrer at 9ofivetpr@gmail.com

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

Thursday, Feb 5 | 6pm | Zoom ID: 852 4980 9914 Passcode: 886683

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 UCC is encouraged to receive this Resolution as a prophetic call and 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

Amendment 3: Know the Truth. Protect Abortion!

Monday, February 9 | 7pm | B'nai Amoona, 324 S. Mason Rd., St. Louis, MO
Join Congregation B'nai Amoona and the NCJWSTL Path Coalition to hear our very own Dana Sandweiss speak about the new Amendment 3 and what you need to know to protect abortion rights. Sign up by February 5 by emailing jkbernstein314@gmail.com

Tuesday Evening Dialogue

2nd and 4th Tuesdays | 6-8pm | Heritage Room
Zoom Meeting ID: 849 4403 9731; Passcode: 792617

Please join us at TED for friendship and lively book discussions. Our next meeting is **Tuesday, Feb 10**. 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 24 to end of book. 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 for questions.

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; 314-872-9330

Faith Perspectives An Interfaith Conversation about Reproductive Justice

Saturday, February 14 | 9am | Shaare Emeth, 11645 Ladue Rd., St. Louis, MO
Join members of the Access MO Clergy Advisory Board for an interfaith panel discussion about reproductive rights and beliefs from different faiths.

The panel will include Rev. Kevin Cameron, Rabbi Andrea Goldstein, and Rev. Deborah Krause, and will be moderated by Access MO President & Co-Founder Dana Sandweiss.

Please park in the north parking lot and enter through the North Lobby. Coffee, tea, and light breakfast snacks will be served at 9am. Conversation begins at 9:30am.
Scan or click QR code to register.



Speaker Series Occasional opportunities after worship at 11:15am "Growing Up in St. Louis over the Last Century," by Ron Elz, aka Johnny Rabbitt.

Sunday, February 15 | 11:15am | Heritage Room

History comes alive with this program by St. Louis radio legend, Ron Elz, also known as Johnny Rabbitt. Mr. Elz was the first to use the Johnny Rabbitt moniker and helped popularize the name during the 1960's at the radio station KXOK. After some time away from the Rabbitt persona, Mr. Elz resumed using the Johnny Rabbitt name in 1975 and since has hosted the classic oldies show Route 66 on KMOX. He also has continued his legacy by presenting programs that explore interesting and novel nostalgic times in the River City.

What makes nostalgia so powerful? It's because of its bittersweet quality - a mix of happy recollections and a slight sadness for what is lost. Join us as Johnny/Ron takes us down memory lane with stories, legends and myths, fun photos, some trivia, and a few quips and jokes. Questions? Richard Scherrer at 9ofivetpr@gmail.com

Reproductive Healthcare Discussion Groups Small Group Discussions for men & women in the Heritage Room

Tuesday, February 24 from 7-8:30pm

Saturday, February 28 from 2-3:30pm

Saturday, March 21 from 3-4:30pm

Parkway UCC is offering several presentations and discussion groups centered around reproductive healthcare for women and their families. These small group discussions will facilitate sharing experiences of reproductive healthcare. By sharing our views and experiences, we reduce stigma, develop awareness, and build solidarity. Scan or click the QR code and reserve early as space is limited for some sessions. By respectfully listening to and sharing experiences about reproductive healthcare in a supportive environment you can learn how to support the rights of women, their families and physicians to make reproductive healthcare decisions.



Speaker: Ruth A Huebner, PhD in Psychology, former Child Welfare Research Consultant for the US Children's Bureau.

For more info, contact Karen Mariani 827mariani@gmail.com

Go AWOL this Winter – Adventurous Women Out Late

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.



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; 314-872-9330

St. Pat's Dinner Come Support Habitat for Humanity

Saturday, February 28 | 4-7pm | Samuel UCC

Please bring family and friends! Call the church office for tickets 314-727-9540, or purchase at the door. If you can't make it, please consider sending a contribution! Tickets are \$20. Kids 6-10: \$6. Special thanks to the Kern Meat Company and others. Every cent goes to Habitat for Humanity!

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 2025, the Church Council voted to support the General Synod 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 or ksmarian59@gmail.com.

FUNDdrive—Help Support Two Causes!

We encourage Parkway members and friends to join the Parkway Eco Stewards' FUNDdrive, 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.

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 for a time that works. Questions-contact Polly Rutherford,

pollyrutherford@gmail.com

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

Girl Scout Cookie 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. Cookies will still be available for another month. More details on how to purchase online are in the eNews or reach out to gabriel@parkwayucc.org

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.

English Conversation Request

Some of you will remember Luke, a graduate student from Eden Seminary, who worshipped with us regularly when he was here from Sri Lanka in 2017-2018.

https://www.globalministries.org/sri_lankan_students_graduate_from_eden_and_princeton/

He reached out to us last week through Greg Schmelig (often his ride to and from church) to give us an update on his life and ministry... and to ask us for some help with conversational English with some of the students in his village.

Here is part of his letter:

My family and I are doing well. My ministry is also moving forward, and one key part of it is teaching English to adults in our village. Currently, I have a group of about 10 students. While we cover grammar and other essentials, many still find it challenging to speak confidently. Because of this, I've decided to place a special emphasis on conversational practice.

Here in the village, many young people miss opportunities due to language barriers. Even when they know some English, they struggle to speak fluently. To help them, I'm hoping to find a volunteer who would be willing to join our class remotely for conversation sessions.

Our class meets twice a week for about an hour and a half each session. Ideally, the volunteer could join for the last half hour of each class to engage the students in guided conversation. I've scheduled the classes for Monday and Tuesday mornings from 7:00 to 8:30am (USA Central Time), so the conversational segment would be from approximately 8:00 to 8:30am. The volunteer could speak with students on various everyday topics to build their confidence. I'd also appreciate gentle correction when mistakes are made. Even though it's a group setting, I plan to organize the time so each student gets a few minutes of one-on-one speaking practice.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to support my students. Your help could make a meaningful difference in their lives and futures.

God bless you.

~Luke

We are looking for three people that would be willing to give this a try. Please let **kevin@parkwaucc.org** know and he can give you Luke's email address so you can reach out to him directly. Thank you for considering this.

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.

Prayer List

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

Celebrations

The Baptism of **Payton Josephine Nienhaus** this Sunday, daughter of Justin Nienhaus and Becca Palmgren (former PUCC Nursery Attendant).

Concerns

Carol and Harold Cobb - as she recuperates from hip surgery.

Lewis Burcham - 103 yr old healing after hospitalization (Stan's dad)

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

Evelyn Buretta's brother and sister.

Marianne - courage, strength, wisdom as she faces challenges and gets through them (Marilyn McDougall's sister)

Debbie and Dale Borgmann - as she recuperates from multiple bone breaks resulting in surgeries, rods and pins. (Keith's cousin and wife)

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

Clara Zander and family as they prepare for her eye surgery on Jan 30.

Roger - lung failure (nephew/cousin of the Pleis-Eiffert family).

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

Edward Calcaterra - living with esophageal cancer (Litzinger).

Kate - health challenges including shingles (Borgmann niece).

The grief and groaning of Minneapolis and the nation over the deaths of *Renee Nicole Good* and *Alex Pretti*.

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).

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

Edward Calcaterra - living with esophageal cancer (Litzinger).

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; 314-983-0255
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.