



 **PARKWAY**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



www.parkwayucc.org

February 22, 2026

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## Limitless Love | Courageous Action | Spirited Inquiry

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### Purpose Statement

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

### Congregational Statement

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

## PARKWAY UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

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# Welcome to Parkway

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

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

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

## Worship Serving Today

**Scripture Reader** is Evelyn Buretta.

**Flowers** are given by Judy McLachlin in memory of her husband, Bob.

**Treats** provided by Dawn Jones-Goldstein.

**Our Prayer Chaplain** this morning is Emma Zyriek-Rhodes.



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://warmlines.org/warmlines.html>

## Birthdays

2/22 Charlotte Smith

2/24 Mia Schulenburg

2/24 Rose Mary

2/25 Karla Beck

2/25 Laura Schowalter

2/25 Wyatt Tallyn

2/27 Paul Roesler

2/27 Cindy Nouri

2/28 Ralph Hoffman

2/28 Alek Waddell

# 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent

Sunday, February 22, 2026 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & YouTube Live

**Prelude** *A Morning Sunbeam* by Florence Price (No. 3 from *Sketches for Little Pianists*)

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

**Meditation** If what you have done yesterday still looks big to you, you haven't done much today. ~Mikhail Gorbachev

## 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** *Lead Me, Guide Me*

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.

The musical score is written on four staves in a 3/4 time signature with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are placed below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the song. The second staff contains the second line, with a triplet of eighth notes under the word 'if'. The third staff contains the third line, also with a triplet of eighth notes under the word 'let'. The fourth staff contains the final line, ending with a long horizontal line under the word 'me'.

**Scripture** Matthew 4:1-11 | The Message

Next Jesus was taken into the wild by the Spirit for the Test. The Devil was ready to give it. Jesus prepared for the Test by fasting forty days and forty nights. That left him, of course, in a state of extreme hunger, which the Devil took advantage of in the first test: “Since you are God’s Son, speak the word that will turn these stones into loaves of bread.”

Jesus answered by quoting Deuteronomy: “It takes more than bread to stay alive. It takes a steady stream of words from God’s mouth.”

For the second test the Devil took him to the Holy City. He sat him on top of the Temple and said, “Since you are God’s Son, jump.” The Devil goaded him by quoting Psalm 91: “He has placed you in the care of angels. They will catch you so that you won’t so much as stub your toe on a stone.”

Jesus countered with another citation from Deuteronomy: “Don’t you dare test the Lord your God.”

For the third test, the Devil took him to the peak of a huge mountain. He gestured expansively, pointing out all the earth’s kingdoms, how glorious they all were. Then he said, “They’re yours - all of it! Just go down on your knees and worship me, and they’re yours.”

Jesus’ refusal was curt: “Beat it, Satan!” He backed his rebuke with a third quotation from Deuteronomy: “Worship the Lord your God, and only him. Serve him with absolute single-heartedness.”

The Test was over. The Devil left. And in his place, angels! Angels came and took care of Jesus’ needs.

## \*Call to Worship

One:	In the wilderness, Jesus faced hunger, exhaustion, and temptation. He did not pretend to be limitless. He trusted God within his humanity.
<b>Many:</b>	<b>We come as people with limits. We come with needs, questions, and longings.</b>
One:	In the wilderness, Jesus remembered the words of his tradition - ancient wisdom carried in his heart, mind and spirit.
<b>Many:</b>	<b>We come seeking words that ground us, stories that guide us, truth that strengthens us.</b>
One:	This is the season of returning - returning to what matters most.
<b>Many:</b>	<b>With open hearts, honest limits and thoughtful questions, we worship God with humility and hope.</b>
One:	We come relying on the Holy Spirit this season of Lent. We seek to be more faithful and effective, more aligned with Jesus’ words and ways.
<b>All:</b>	<b>Let us worship our God together - Creator, Christ and Spirit.</b>

## \*Song *Our Lord, You Were Sent*

(tune: *How Firm A Foundation*)

Our Lord, you were sent to a place wild and vast  
To ponder your mission, to pray and to fast;  
Then hungry and weary, you faced night and day  
The subtle temptations to turn from God's way.

How could it be wrong to want bread on the shelf?  
To seek, in one's serving, to first serve one's self?  
But by God's own word you remained ever sure:  
It's only in God that our lives are secure.

How could it be wrong to step out and to dare,  
To prove with great drama the depths of God's care?  
But you knew God's word, true since all time began:  
It's wrong to expect God to work by our plan.

How could it be wrong to just once bow the knee,  
To shake hands with sin to achieve victory?  
Yet you made it clear that no matter the cost:  
Your path was obedience, your way was the cross.

Our Lord, in your struggle you chose to obey;  
God's word filled your heart and you trusted God's way.  
Now risen, you save us from sins that destroy;  
You give us your Spirit, your peace and your joy.

### **\*Lenten Candles** Questions Shape Us... *What are my limits?*

We lit seven candles on Ash Wednesday as we embarked on this Lenten journey. We want the light of the Holy to illumine our path as we seek to be the words and ways of Jesus. We commit to being infused by the Spirit as we travel. Even as we know this is good and important work, we recognize that it isn't always easy - and we will come upon the shadow side of humanity and some of our own unique darkness.

We extinguish one candle each time we worship this season, acknowledging that this can be tough and exhausting work. As we approach the desertion and depletion of Good Friday, we also prepare ourselves for the dawn and love of Easter morning... the light and love of God that never goes out.

### **\*Prayer at the Candles**

**Holy One, as we make this Lenten journey alone and together, we bring the questions that shape us, including: What are my limits? How can we be born anew? Where do we find living water? Who is to blame? Can these bones carry us? What do we believe? Who is this Jesus washing our feet? Why are we forsaken? Whom are we looking for? Who will roll the stone away?**

**You meet us not with easy answers but with invitation - to new awareness that adds momentum to love, to heightened senses and unsealed wells, to dry bones moistened, to burdens seen through compassion, to stones rolled away in hope. In this season of deconstruction and rebuilding, letting go and beginning again - lead us, guide us. Lift our eyes to the hills, steady our steps in the valley, and make us brave enough to ask, humble enough to listen, and bold enough to follow. Form us into people oriented to justice, thirsting for mercy, alive in resurrection. Amen.**

### **\*Response** *Were You There When They Questioned?*

Were you there when they questioned Jesus Christ?  
Were you there when he asked them questions too?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to wonder, ponder, discern.  
Be with us as we question and respond.

**Children's Time** For children under the age of 3, parents are invited to take them to Room 06 (upper level) where one of our teachers will meet them at the door. Children and youth will gather in Room 13 (lower level) for the Opening Session. Children from age 3 to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will then go to Room 12, children from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grade will stay in Room 13, and youth from 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade will go to Room 15. For children in Room 06, parents please pick them up after worship. Children and youth from age 3 thru high school can be met in the Gathering Space just outside the Sanctuary after worship, as the teachers will bring them back upstairs after class.

### **Blessing the Children** *They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love*

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.

And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.

Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

### **Scripture** Matthew 4:1-11 | Common English Bible

Then the Spirit led Jesus up into the wilderness so that the devil might tempt him. After Jesus had fasted for forty days and forty nights, he was starving. The tempter came to him and said, "Since you are God's Son, command these stones to become bread."

Jesus replied, "It's written, *People won't live only by bread, but by every word spoken by God.*"

After that the devil brought him into the holy city and stood him at the highest point of the temple. He said to him, "Since you are God's Son, throw yourself down; for it is written, *I will command my angels concerning you, and they will take you up in their hands so that you won't hit your foot on a stone.*"

Jesus replied, "Again it's written, *Don't test the Lord your God.*"

Then the devil brought him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. He said, "I'll give you all these if you bow down and worship me."

Jesus responded, "Go away, Satan, because it's written, *You will worship the Lord your God and serve only God.*"

The devil left him, and angels came and took care of him.

### **Moment of Silent Reflection**

### **Sermon**

## A Time of Prayer *For One Great Peace*



1. This thread I weave, this step I dance, this  
2. this pot I shape, this fire I light, this  
3. this check I write, this march I join, this



stone I carve, this ball I bounce, this nail I drive, this  
fence I leap, this bone I knit, this seed I nurse, this  
faith I state, this truth I sign, this is small part, in



pearl I string, this flag I wave, this note I sing,  
rift I mend, this child I raise, this earth I tend,  
one small place, of one heart's beat for one great Peace.

## Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People

### Lord's Prayer

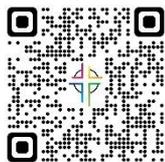
**Our [Creator/Mother/Father/Holy One] who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

[A variety of names for God are welcome here – including in the Lord's Prayer.]

### Mission Moment <sup>2nd</sup> Mile Lent/Easter

Heifer Int'l | Lydia's House | Unleashing Potential | Bread for the World

### 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** *Talk About a Child That Do Love Jesus* arranged by Calvin Taylor

### \*Response *Make Me a Servant*

Make me a ser-vant, hum-ble and meek, Lord, let me  
lift up those who are weak. And may the prayer of my  
heart al-ways be: Make me a ser-vant, make me a  
ser-vant, make me a ser-vant to-day. \_\_\_\_\_

### \*Prayer of Dedication

Holy One, when the world tempts us toward scarcity, teach us to share. When we are tempted by control or recognition, root us again in your justice. When we feel worn down by limits, remind us that your grace meets us everywhere. Use these gifts - and us - to nourish neighbors, to resist harm, to grow compassion, and to widen your welcome. In this and every season, we follow the One who walked through wilderness and still chose love. Amen.

### \*Song of Parting *Lead Me, Guide Me*

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. \_\_\_\_\_

### \*Benediction

### \*God's Light Goes Forth

### \*Music for Going Forth *Improvisation on Promise of a Lifetime* by Kutless (refrain and bridge, pipe organ)

"They who sing, pray twice." Amy will be at the couches after worship to chat about how you can be involved with music this Lent and Easter (and beyond). Instrumentalists of all sorts and singers are all welcome! Please help us strengthen our music ministry... amy@parkwayucc.org; kevin@parkwayucc.org

# 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)

## 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

## Isaiah 58 Ministries Groundbreaking Celebration

Tuesday, February 24 | 10am | 4164 Chippewa St, St. Louis 63116  
You are invited to the groundbreaking of the Isaiah 58 Ministries new facility. For nearly 60 years, Isaiah 58 Ministries has served individuals and families across South St. Louis by addressing food insecurity and providing access to basic necessities. In recent years, the number of households seeking assistance has continued to grow, along with a shift in where many of their guests now live. These changing community needs prompted them to think intentionally about how and where they could best serve their neighbors moving forward.

Two years ago, their organization began a visioning process to identify a space that could become the heart and hub of community support — a centralized location designed to increase access, dignity, and connection for those they serve. They are proud to share that this vision is now becoming reality. The purchase of this building represents a long-term investment in the surrounding neighborhoods and in the broader effort to strengthen food access, stability, and community wellbeing throughout St. Louis. They would be honored by your presence at their Groundbreaking Celebration. The event will include brief remarks, recognition of community partners, and an opportunity to celebrate this important milestone together. We hope you will be able to join them as they mark this meaningful step forward.

## Reproductive Healthcare

Our Church Council recently adopted several UCC General Synod Resolutions. One includes affirming the right of all people to access reproductive health care and that the choice to have and care for children is a sacred decision which should not be forced on anyone. Parkway is facilitating several opportunities to learn more about the political, personal, medical and family well-being implications of this issue.

Two small group discussions, each limited to 8 participants, on **Tues, Feb 24, 7-8:30pm, and Sat, Feb 28, 2-3:30pm**, will be facilitated by Ruth Huebner, PhD in Psychology & former child welfare research consultant for the US Children's Bureau. The purpose is to provide men and women the opportunity to share their views and experiences of reproductive healthcare. On **Saturday, March 21, 3-4:30pm**, Ruth will present and lead discussion to build understanding of reproductive healthcare decisions in the context of families -- the possibility of medical complications, the long-term commitment of effective parenting, potential family challenges. RSVP to **827mariani@gmail.com** or click or scan QR code for all these programs.



On **Sunday, March 1**, after worship, Lisa Williams will lead a program addressing "Who should make decisions about reproductive health?" Lisa is the St. Louis County organizer for Abortion Action Missouri. She has a Master of Divinity from Eden Seminary and a law degree from Washington University.

## **Tuesday Evening Dialogue**

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

Please join us as we start our discussion on our next book on **Feb 24 Dinners with Ruth** by NPR's Nina Totenberg. This book is a memoir and covers the author's experiences as a young reporter starting out and moves through her life including her long friendship with Ruth Bader-Ginsberg. Please read up to Chapter 7 "Friends and Confidences" for our session on **Tues, Feb 24**. Bring a dish to share for the pot luck & join us for our next book 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.

## **Join With the Adventurers As We Head to Rawlings**

Wednesday, February 25 | 10am-1:30pm | 462 W. Port Plaza Dr., 63146  
Please join the Parkway Adventurers as we head to the Rawlings Experience in Westport Plaza. We'll meet at church at 9:30am for carpooling, or at Rawlings at 10am. We'll have lunch at a nearby restaurant TBD. From Rawlings' Webpage: "Rawlings, the number one baseball brand worldwide and creator of the iconic Rawlings Gold Glove Award, offers sports fans and athletes a truly memorable, immersive experience at its new world headquarters location. Visitors can swing the latest Rawlings bats, design their own custom glove, or explore priceless artifacts highlighting the game's greatest moments and careers." Everyone is welcome. Please come and meet some new Parkway friends! Contact Jackie Eiffert for questions and to RSVP, [jeiffert2@gmail.com](mailto:jeiffert2@gmail.com)

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

Thursday, Feb 26 | 6pm | Zoom ID: 852 4980 9914 Passcode: 886683

Parkway UCC is offering a limited 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.

We'll be engaging with Section 4: Modern Day Israel/Palestine next. 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)



## **Gospel Roots** A Black History Month Celebration

Friday, February 27 | 7pm | Central Baptist Church

Back for an encore performance after last year's acclaimed debut, "Gospel Roots" is a powerful Black History Month concert celebrating the Black community's rich cultural heritage, history, and resilience through music and song. The concert features uplifting gospel performances by the 60-voice Community Gospel Choir, honoring the struggles and triumphs of Black Americans throughout history.

"Gospel Roots" commemorates Black history and celebrates the enduring power of music as a tool for bringing together our community.

This concert is free, but they are asking you to reserve your general admission seat and donate what you can per seat. They need your support to keep presenting this great music as a gift to the community. ***Last year's concert was standing room only, so reserve your seats now by clicking or scanning QR code.***



## **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!

## **LGBTQ+ News for February 2026** By Deb Reinhardt

Jennifer, a parent of a transgender child, tells other parents to listen to their children because they know themselves better than anyone else. Parker, a trans disabled man, encourages people who say they are allies to consider trans and nonbinary people when they vote. Louis, a trans man and minister in the United Church of Christ, wants queer youth to know that God loves them, no matter what parents or preachers say to them.

Jennifer, Parker, and Louis were a few of the 16 inspiring people we learned about thanks to the "Authentic Selves" photo exhibit on loan to Parkway UCC from the Family Diversity Project and organized by the ONA Team. Their stories — and the story shared by guest speaker Jordan Braxton on Jan. 31 — tell us the importance of living authentically, to be who we are and to live beyond any label.

Trans people are our neighbors, not headlines. They work, raise families, and enjoy loving relationships. Jordan's story illustrated what she went through to become the joyful, confident person she is today. Similar experiences were shared in stories that were part of the exhibit.

Yet, the extreme politicization of the trans community continues in Missouri and in Washington, DC. For example, this November, Missourians will see "new" Amendment 3 on the ballot. This legislatively referred constitutional amendment would not only repeal the constitutional right to reproductive freedom, which voters ratified in 2024, it also would prohibit gender-affirming healthcare for trans youth. In addition, the Missouri Legislature this session is debating bills that ban youth from socially transitioning at school (Senate Bill 1085), and several House bills attempt to end the sunsets (expiration dates) on laws that ban access to healthcare for trans youth and prevent them from playing on school sports teams.

This is happening despite the fact that less than 74 percent of Americans think trans rights should be protected (Data for Progress, May 2023) and that 0.1 percent of adolescents identify as trans or gender non-conforming (source: Helio.com, January 2025).

The misinformation radicalized conservatives push into media implying children are having surgeries or receiving hormone therapies is a lie. Harvard University researchers in 2024 reported that in more than 5 million patients enrolled in private health insurance, no youth age 12 or younger were prescribed hormones or received gender-affirming surgeries. In addition, the NCAA president in 2025 told Congress that out of 500,000 college athletes, "less than 10" identify as trans. But then, it's never been about sports or bathrooms; certain politicians use these hateful tropes to appeal to a percentage of their base.

So, what can we as parents, grandparents, friends, allies and faithful people do? We speak out to correct misinformation in our circles and remind people that personal health decisions should be the responsibility of individuals and their families and medical team, not government. We support organizations like TransParent or PFLAG. We sign up for state legislative updates from PROMO Missouri and contact legislators when harmful bills are brought to committee or to the floor. We follow any Congressional bills through Fast Democracy or the 5 Calls app and contact lawmakers. Most importantly, we show the trans community in St. Louis that we see and affirm them. There are volunteer opportunities through the year at Metro Trans Umbrella Group (MTUG). Trans Housing Initiative of St. Louis (THISTL) works for housing justice for transgender and gender non-conforming individuals.

Jesus told us to love our neighbors. It's a command that requires our action.

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

### **“A Conversation About Abortion: Seeking Understanding and Solidarity,” by Lisa Williams.**

March 1 | 11:15am | Heritage Room

Lisa Williams, St. Louis County Organizer for Abortion Action Missouri, holds degrees from Eden Seminary and Washington University Law. She'll address who should make reproductive health decisions—individuals and their doctors, or politicians. This program aims to educate, empower, and foster respectful discussion about abortion care, acknowledging diverse perspectives. Together we will: Review abortion care status in Missouri and relevant legislative threats; examine the United Church of Christ's Resolution affirming abortion as healthcare; share experiences and perspectives respectfully; discuss support for women, families, and physicians making reproductive decisions free from political influence.

### **“The Psychology of Gun Violence: How Smart Choices Can Save Lives,” by Professor Janet S. Hyde.**

March 22 | 11:15am | Heritage Room

Professor Hyde's presentation will update the audience on the gun debate and other insightful views on the subject not generally known to the public. Among many accolades throughout her professional life, Professor Hyde received the Ernest R. Hilgard Lifetime Achievement Award presented by the American Psychological Association in 2016. She is also active in a national organization called "Every Town for Gun Safety." Please attend and keep yourself informed on matters that can be life or death. Our thanks to Nancy Litzinger for introducing Professor Hyde to the Speakers Series staff

Questions? Richard Scherrer at [gofivetpr@gmail.com](mailto:gofivetpr@gmail.com)

## **Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue on Zoom**

1st & 3rd Tuesday | 1:45pm fellowship | 2:00-3:00pm discussion

Zoom Link (312) 626-6799; Meeting ID: 836 7061 7428; Passcode: 480007

Please join with TAD as we read and discuss *The Lion Women of Tehran*, a novel by Marjan Kamali, in 2 more sessions on **March 3, and March 17**.

We'd love to have you! The book is a heartfelt, epic novel of friendship, betrayal, redemption, and the struggle for women's rights set against three transformative decades in Tehran, Iran. Fellowship starts at 1:45pm and the book discussion is from 2-3pm. For more info, please contact Jackie Eiffert at [jeiffert2@gmail.com](mailto:jeiffert2@gmail.com)

## **SAVE THE DATE! Gateway ONA Convocation 2026**

Saturday, March 7 | 8:30am-3pm | Parkway UCC

**Theme:** Open and Affirming: Sacred, Seen, and Called. This Annual Convocation is for members of local churches who are exploring or living into what it means to be Open and Affirming. Workshops, guest speakers and worship will be a part of this amazing day!

**Keynote Speaker:** Rev. Derek Terry, (he/him) Acting Executive Director of the Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ and part-time pastor of St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Cincinnati, Ohio. He is a nationally known pastor, artist, and activist committed to justice, inclusion, and creative resistance.

Doors open and light breakfast available at 8am. Worship begins at 9am.

We are once again collecting canned goods to donate to Doorways. We will collect these at the door. The Eden Seminary Bookstore will have resources available during the event. Bring your travel mug and enjoy refreshment during the day. Please complete a separate registration and email address for each person. Registration cost: \$25.00. Click or scan QR code!



Karla Beck, PUCG coordinator, is eager for help [madamebeck@yahoo.com](mailto:madamebeck@yahoo.com)

### **FUNDrive Final Push!**

As of Feb 22 we have two more Sundays—March 1, and March 8—for FunDrive drop-offs, though weekday drop-offs are also welcome (email Gabriel at [gabriel@parkwayucc.org](mailto:gabriel@parkwayucc.org) to coordinate). Please place items on the bench in the gym/dining area or by the Gathering Space doors. Soft goods (clothing, linens, shoes, accessories, etc.) should go in black or white garbage bags, while household items (kitchenware, toys, décor) go in labeled boxes, and books/media (VHS, CDs, DVDs) must be boxed separately and labeled, as we are paid by category. We're close to earning bonuses—1,000 lbs. of household goods and 700 lbs. of books/media each earn \$50, and 3,000 total pounds earns a \$75 U-Haul allowance—so a strong push over the next two weeks will help us reach these goals. Please also save the date for loading on **March 13** and unloading at Savers in Ellisville on **March 14 at 1 pm**; we'll need help, vehicles (limit of five for drop-off), and possibly additional trucks depending on final totals. Thank you for your continued support!

### **Fun Items Needed for Easter Morning Egg Hunt!**

During this year's Easter Morning Egg Hunt happening April 5, children will collect eggs filled with prize tickets, then visit a store to trade tickets for fun items! We're seeking new or like-new donations (valued at \$5 or less) for babies through 5th grade - no food, please. Ideas include books, fidget toys, and other kid-friendly goodies. Please place donations in the "PUCG Egg Hunt" basket in the Gathering Space by **March 22**. Questions? Contact Ingrid Scharf at [scharf.ingrid@gmail.com](mailto:scharf.ingrid@gmail.com). Thank you!

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

Tuesday, March 24 | 3-5pm | 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:**

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

## **The 2026 Easter Egg Hunt is 7 weeks away (March 28)**

It's not too early to shop for both candy and plastic easter eggs.

We need small-size candy (2" max).

We prefer plastic eggs with attached tops, and will accept used plastic eggs.

Volunteer sign-ups for this fun event will go up in the next week or so.

In the meantime, on behalf of the "Big Bun", thank you!

Questions? contact the "fun bun crew" organizer, Karen Mariani

[kmariani59@gmail.com](mailto:kmariani59@gmail.com)

## **Respect MO Voters Sign, Volunteer, Donate**

Many have signed Respect MO Voter's petition for a ballot initiative to secure and strengthen the initiative petition process in Missouri which is currently under attack by our legislature. Our time is running out to get the required number of signatures and are in great need of volunteers and signatures immediately. This petition is nonpartisan. Will you give a few hours to help protect initiative petition rights for all Missouri voters? If we sit this one out, the right could be taken forever. If we act now, we can preserve it. Let's not look back and wish we would have done more. Please sign up at [respectmovoters.org/join](http://respectmovoters.org/join) or contact Michelle Singer ([mrsinger71@gmail.com](mailto:mrsinger71@gmail.com)) or Cindy Nouri ([cynthianouri@gmail.com](mailto:cynthianouri@gmail.com)).

# Prayer List

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

## Celebrations

### **Black History Month.**

**Carole Barner** and **St Peter's UCC**, New Haven MO - shared ministry

## Concerns

**Pat Owens** - inpatient rehab; plans to be home on birthday 02-18!

**Roger and family** - Pleis-Eiffert nephew/cousin who died in his sleep.

**Randy Cosby** - healing as multiple myeloma has returned (Reinhardt).

**Marilyn Zucker** – healing after a fall and hip surgery (Litzinger).

**Sera, Wyatt Watkins & family** as she is deployed until end of 2026.

**The grief and groaning of Minneapolis** and the nation over ICE.

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

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

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

## Continuing

**Family and friends of Bill Klein** - as they grieve/give thanks for him.

**Alex Wiseman** - living with autoimmune challenges; new doctor appts.

**Diane Doty** - hospice care after cancer diagnosis (Grant's mom).

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

**Ed Calcaterra** - optimistic as immune therapy commences (Litzinger).

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

**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 brain surgery (Bowermaster).

**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).

**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; healing after surgery (Akers).

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

**Pam and David** - divorced after 55 years of marriage (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).

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

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

**Rebecca Ray** - that her book on suicide prevention will be published.

**Bill & Nancy Darland** - his ongoing health issues.

**Gail, Bill and Christopher Haack** - chronic health challenges.

## **Home-Centered/Care Facility/Rehab Center**

**Lewis Junior Burcham** - *The Glenwood*; 1635 N. Baltimore Ave #25; Mt. Zion, IL 62549; 217-864-1757 [birthday: January 15]

**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.**

### **From Maren Tirabassi, UCC pastor, on February 17**

*Greetings to my neighbors ... for my Muslim neighbors may the beginning of Ramadan this evening bring deep spiritual renewal and for my neighbors who celebrate the Lunar New Year, may the Year of the Horse, the Fire Horse, bring joy.*

*For people preparing to fast, a blessing.*

*For people wearing red, dancing in the streets, a blessing.*

*For people preparing to burn last year's palms  
into this year's ashes,*

*or dance in the street with Mardi Gras beads, a blessing.*

## ***Interrupting Power***

Rachel Hackenberg

*When King Ahasuerus was merry with wine, he commanded Queen Vashti to appear before him, in order to show the peoples and the officials her beauty—for she was fair to behold. But Queen Vashti refused. - Esther 1:10-12 (NRSV, adapted)*

During the 180 days of King Ahasuerus's big bash, Queen Vashti was throwing her own party. While he wined and dined the officials, ministers, governors, generals, and nobles of the Persian Empire—from India to Ethiopia—Queen Vashti hosted a banquet for their wives, mistresses, baronesses, countesses, and noble women.

For 180 days, the international assembly of women ate and drank, rested and played, and politicked. In the midst of it all, Queen Vashti was the gracious diplomat ... until the king interrupted with a command: "Stop what you're doing, and come look pretty for these drunk men."

An interruption of her work.

A reduction of her diplomatic authority.

A power play against her bodily autonomy.

This is what power is. This is what power does. It interrupts and asserts its own agenda. "Come entertain us. Come work to make our lives easier. Stay quiet so we won't feel challenged. Comply with our expectations so we can show you off."

Queen Vashti assessed the king's interruption, his power, and used her own: "No."

Power is interruption: Violence interrupting life. Protest interrupting injustice. Chaos interrupting healing. Questions interrupting lies. We all interrupt and are interrupted, with assorted and rarely unbiased agendas, and not with equal systemic impact.

But one Power interrupts us all. The holy and eternal Interrupter persists in disruption: asserting breath in the midst of upheaval, interjecting promise in the midst of floods, providing welcome in the midst of hostility, interrupting injustice for the cause of life.

### **Prayer**

*God grant me the wisdom to recognize my power, the humility to accept yours, and the courage to interrupt for the sake of your reign.*

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

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



## **TODAY in Sunday School**

Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead. He assures us that death does not have the last word, for he is the resurrection and the life (John 11:1-44).

### **THE POINT**

**Jesus brings life to the world.**

### **BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS**

The World to Come (in Hebrew, “Olam Ha-Ba”) can refer to two different things: the afterlife and the end times. The early Israelites did not have any concept of an eternal life. Receiving the Lord’s favor meant leading long lives with many descendants. By the time of Jesus, the idea of the end times was more widespread, as was the idea of an afterlife. Many early Christians believed that the World to Come, when Jesus would come again and peace for all on earth would finally come to pass, would occur in their own lifetime. Throughout time, the focus has been put more on the World to Come as a spiritual afterlife. This concept recognizes the current world as flawed and looks forward to a time where God will make things right and whole.

### **STORY SUMMARY**

Jesus received word from Mary and Martha that their brother Lazarus was ill. Jesus decided not to go right away, and when he set out two days later, Lazarus had died. As Jesus and his disciples walked to Bethany, Jesus told the disciples that he would raise Lazarus. Jesus arrived in Bethany four days after Lazarus’ death. Jesus was taken to Lazarus’ tomb, and cried over Lazarus. But then he called to Lazarus, raising him from the dead and proclaiming himself to be “the resurrection and the life.”

### **PRACTICE: Service**

In today’s Scripture, we see Jesus interacting with his friends—Mary, Martha, and Lazarus—and his love for them as he cries over Lazarus’ death and then raises him from the dead. As we follow Jesus, we are called to serve one another—recognizing each other’s humanity—and to seek connection as we find ways to share God’s love. This week, identify people who you can connect with, make plans, and follow through on them.

## **NEXT WEEK in Sunday School**

Jesus washes the feet of his disciples, showing his followers again how important relationships are as we serve one another (John 13:1-17).

**Want to go deeper with the lesson and learn more about what our Children and Youth are up? Scan or click the QR code!**

