

 **PARKWAY**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

March 1, 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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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 Jackie Eiffert.

**Flowers** are given by the Flower Team.

**Treats** provided by Florence Simonson.

**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](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

3/1 Bill Haack

3/1 Angela Chostner

3/3 Carol Clifford

3/3 Melissa Pounds

3/4 Deb Carter

3/7 Douglas Sperry

## Anniversaries

3/3 Amy & Doug Yakel

3/6 Anil & Janie Pillai

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

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

**Prelude** *Song Without Words in D Major, Op. 109* (posthumous) by Felix Mendelssohn, transcribed for solo piano

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

**Meditation** Jesus proclaimed, 'repent', for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. He is saying that a whole new order is about to enter history, and if you want to be a part of it, you will need a change so fundamental that the Gospel of John would later refer to it as a "new birth". Being born again was not meant to be a private religious experience that is hard to communicate... but rather the prerequisite for joining a new and very public movement - the Jesus and kingdom of God movement. ~ Jim Wallis

## 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. \_\_\_\_\_

**Scripture** John 3:1-17 | New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition  
 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.”

Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”

Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?”

Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?”

Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

**\*Call to Worship**

One:	We come with questions, like Nicodemus in the night - wondering what it means to begin again.
<b>Many:</b>	<b>We come seeking new birth - of courage, of compassion, of hope.</b>
One:	The Spirit moves where it will - unseen, untamed, alive among us.
<b>Many:</b>	<b>We open ourselves to the holy winds of change.</b>
One:	God did not come to condemn the world, but to heal it - not to shame us, but to love us into life.
<b>Many:</b>	<b>We step into that love, trusting it is for us and for all.</b>
One:	The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it.
<b>Many:</b>	<b>We turn toward the Light. We become the Light together.</b>
One:	God is always making all things new.
<b>All:</b>	<b>Let us worship our God together - Creator, Christ and Spirit.</b>

**\*Song** *The God of Abraham Praise*



1. The God of A-braham praise, Who reigns en-throned a - bove;  
2. Your spir - it still flows free, High surg - ing where it will;  
3. You have e - ter - nal life Im - plant - ed in the soul;



The an - cient of e - ter - nal days, The God of love!  
In proph-et's word You spoke of old And You speak still.  
Your love shall be our strength and stay, While a - ges roll.



The Lord, the great I Am, By earth and heaven con - fessed,  
Es - tab - lished is Your law, And change-less it shall stand,  
We praise You, liv - ing God! We praise Your ho - ly name;



We bow be - fore Your ho - ly name, For - ev - er blest.  
Deep writ up - on the hu - man heart, On sea, or land.  
The first, the last, be - yond all thought, And still the same!

**\*Lenten Candles** Questions Shape Us... *How can someone be born again?*

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 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 from age 3 to 5<sup>th</sup> grade will 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 will come back up with their teachers for Communion with all of us.

## **Blessing the Children** *Jesus Loves the Little Children*

**Jesus loves the little children,  
All the children of the world.  
Every child in every land,  
Jesus holds them by the hand.  
Jesus loves the little children of the world.**

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

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

## **Offering Our Gifts to God**



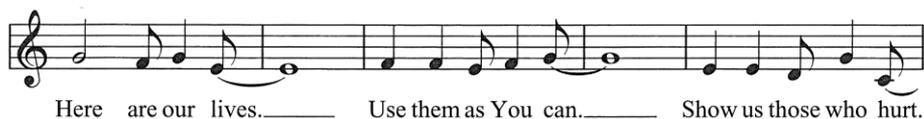
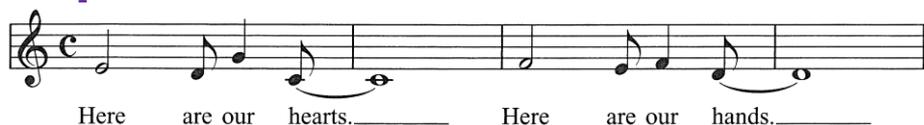
If you have an offering today, please place it in the plate on the stand next to the communion table before the end of the closing hymn. There are offering plates in the Gathering Space outside the sanctuary too. Thank you for your generosity.

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

## Offering Interlude *I Am Loved* By Timothy G Bushong (with an alternate harmony)

I am loved by an awesome God  
I am loved by the Savior of the world.  
I was born for amazing things!  
I am loved by an awesome God!

### \*Response *Here Are Our Hearts*



### \*Prayer of Dedication

**Generous God, You call us beyond what is familiar into lives that bless the world. Receive these gifts and our lives with them. Use them to bring hope, justice, and love where they are needed most. As we listen for Your Word, give us courage to trust Your call and follow. Amen.**

### Scripture Genesis 12:1-4a | Common English Bible

The Lord said to Abram, “Leave your land, your family, and your family’s household for the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation and will bless you. I will make your name respected, and you will be a blessing.

I will bless those who bless you,

those who curse you I will curse;

all the families of the earth will be blessed because of you.”

Abram left just as the Lord told him.

### 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*



1. We gath-er here in Je - sus' name, his love is  
(3. He joins us) here, he breaks the bread, the Lord who  
(5. We'll gath-er) soon where an - gels 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; } Come, take the  
love the most is now our gra - cious host: }  
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

## Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People, Lord's Prayer

**Our** [Creator/Mother/Father/Holy One] **who 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 *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* by Kathleen Thomerson

## \*Prayer of Thanksgiving based on Psalm 121

**Holy One, we have shared this bread and cup, and we remember: our help comes from you - Maker of heaven and earth. Watch over our going out and our coming in. Be our shade when life feels harsh, our strength when we feel weak, our hope when the road is uncertain. May this meal send us out renewed to love boldly and serve faithfully, trusting that you are with us always. Amen.**

## \*Song of Parting *Lord, Make Us More Holy*



- |                                    |                                 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Lord, make us more ho - ly,     | Lord, make us more ho - ly,     |
| 2. Lord, make us more lov - ing,   | Lord, make us more lov - ing,   |
| 3. Lord, make us more pa - tient,  | Lord, make us more pa - tient,  |
| 4. Lord, make us more faith - ful, | Lord, make us more faith - ful, |



- |                                 |                            |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Lord, make us more ho - ly,     | Un - til we meet a - gain. |
| Lord, make us more lov - ing,   | Un - til we meet a - gain. |
| Lord, make us more pa - tient,  | Un - til we meet a - gain. |
| Lord, make us more faith - ful, | Un - til we meet a - gain. |



- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly,             | Un - til we meet a - gain. |
| Lov - ing, lov - ing, lov - ing,       | Un - til we meet a - gain. |
| Pa - tient, pa - tient, pa - tient,    | Un - til we meet a - gain. |
| Faith - ful, faith - ful, faith - ful, | Un - til we meet a - gain. |

## \*Benediction

## \*God's Light Goes Forth

## \*Music for Going Forth Improvisation on *The Quest* by Mitch Leigh

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

TODAY | 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)

## **Council Highlights for February**

- Council approved the hiring of Lakita Wofford-Bates as our new Child Care Worker. She has much experience with preschool children, and is close to finishing her degree in Early Childhood. Lakita will join Katie, our other nursery attendant who has been with us since August. Please be sure to introduce yourself to Lakita. We also say 'thank you' to the search team.
- The Safety Team reports that 2 additional cameras need to be installed in hallways to complete the first phase of the new security measures. We have had good luck hosting an officer on Sunday mornings. Kudos to Rich Race for all of his efforts!

- Council approved an amended Budget presented by Linda Tossing that includes the monies set aside for the Speaker Series and for slight increases for 2 employees. The new Total Expense is \$609,792, with a shortfall of \$35,855.
- Kevin reported that we continue to see new people visiting church. As a congregation, please continue to offer them an extravagant welcome.
- Money was approved for sealing the brick on the Historic Sanctuary and for caulking the stained-glass windows in the New Sanctuary.

For more info, contact Lana Biondo [Lanabiondo66@gmail.com](mailto:Lanabiondo66@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)

## Adventurous Men Out Early

AMOE gathers in the Heritage Room on **Thursday, March 5** at 9:15am. What's the agenda? Hard to say. All we know is we look forward to getting together each month. Questions? See Richard Scherrer

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

Thursday, March 5 | 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.

This will be our last session where we'll be engaging with Section 5: Moving Forward. 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)



## Gateway ONA Convocation 2026 is Next Weekend!

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

## **Annual Chili Cookoff/Brownie Smackdown** **sponsored by PUCC Youth to raise funds for mission week**

Sunday, March 8 | 11:15am | Fellowship Hall

LET'S GET READY TO RUMBLE!!!! It's time for our annual Chili Cookoff/Brownie Smackdown! The event will be held on Sunday, March 8, happening closely before St. Patrick's Day weekend, following the worship service. \$5 for event.

So, wear your green, bring your best chili and/or brownies, and with a wee bit o' luck, you will be the 2026 champion and receive the coveted trophy (ribbon for the brownies) and braggin' rights for the next year!

This is a fundraiser for the youth to raise money for their annual mission projects; so come out, support our youth, and enjoy some fun, fellowship and good-natured competition! The sign-up will be in the Gathering Space. You can also scan or click the QR code. Thanks for your support!



For more info, reach out to Amy Yakel [da\\_yakel@att.net](mailto:da_yakel@att.net)

## **Faith Communities & Immigration Detention—From Understanding to Action**

Sunday, March 8 | 1-2:30pm | 11645 Ladue Rd, St. Louis 63141

What is happening inside the U.S. immigration detention system—and what can communities of faith do in response? In this session, immigration expert Professor Austin Kocher offers a clear overview of how the U.S. immigration detention system's enforcement trends and detention conditions and the people most impacted. Professor Kocher grounds the conversation in evidence, helping participants understand the scale and human consequences of detention in the U.S. The session will also highlight how faith



communities across the country are responding to this moment—through accompaniment, advocacy, rapid response, and moral witness. Participants will be invited to consider immigration detention and enforcement as deeply moral and spiritual questions. Time will be reserved for dialogue and discussion. This event is open to the community and is sponsored by Congregation Shaare Emeth and the Jewish Community Relations Council of St. Louis. Registration for each attendee is required by scanning or clicking QR code.

## FUNDrive Final Push!

As of **March 1**, we have one more Sunday—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 at the church on **March 13 at 4:30pm** 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!

## Tuesday Evening Dialogue

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

Please join us as we continue our discussion on the book *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 13 for our next session on **March 10**. 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.

## Go AWOL this Winter—Adventurous Women Out Late



**Friday, March 20 @5:30pm Dinner and Oscar-nominated Film.** Dine at Pierce Creek then enjoy an acclaimed movie (TBA) around the corner at AMC Crève Coeur. Please RSVP by clicking or scanning QR code so we know how many tickets to purchase. (Carmen will purchase tix and you can Venmo her or give her cash.)

## 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 has facilitated several opportunities to learn more about the political, personal, medical and family well-being implications of this issue. We have one more coming up!

On **Saturday, March 21, 3-4:30pm**, Ruth Huebner, PhD in Psychology & former child welfare research consultant for the US Children's Bureau, will present and lead a 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 **827mariansi@gmail.com** or click or scan QR code for all this program.



## 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 "PUCC Egg Hunt" basket in the Gathering Space by **March 22**. Questions? Contact Ingrid Scharf at **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**; 314-872-9330

## Coffee and Conversation at Panera

Wednesday, March 25 | 2pm | Panera on Manchester Road in Des Peres  
Join us for a beverage and sweet treat. Come connect! No need to RSVP - just show up!

### Upcoming dates:

Tuesday, May 12 at 2pm  
Friday, April 17 at 10am  
Monday, June 29 at 7pm

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

## 2026 Community Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 28 | 9:30am | Parkway UCC

This hunt is open to the community. It is a fun and fast event that both kids and adults enjoy. Over 300 eggs are stuffed every year so we are looking for donations of both plastic easter eggs and candy. We need "fun bun" volunteers to both hide eggs outdoors, and inside helping with activities and taking photos. We also need someone to be the "Big Bun" this year. Sign-up either by click or scanning QR code or in the Gathering Space. Questions? contact the "fun bun crew" organizer, Karen Mariani [ksmariani59@gmail.com](mailto:ksmariani59@gmail.com)



## Spring Friendship Dinners

Spring is right around the corner, and so are Friendship Dinners. Sign up in The Gathering Space to be a host or guest. Hosts can also sign up to be a guest at another dinner.

We will also have a Family Friendly Potluck for families with children. This will be held at the church playground after Sunday service on April 26. More details to follow.

Dinner host volunteers should indicate how many guests they will invite. The Friendship Dinner team will organize the dinners at the end of March. The host provides the main dish, and guests bring a side dish or dessert. The host can also decide on a Dutch dinner at a local restaurant. Please look for the signup sheet at the Gathering Space or contact Cindy Wessel to sign up at [cindywessel@yahoo.com](mailto:cindywessel@yahoo.com)

## Respect MO Voters: Sign, Volunteer, Donate 60 Days to Get 100,000 Signatures!

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)).

## Easter Ferns for Sale

There will be 15 fern hanging baskets for sale to decorate the sanctuary on Easter. Please sign up on One Church, pay on the site or put \$20 in the collection plate with a notation of 'FERN'. The ferns may be taken home after worship on Easter morning. There will be not be a sign-up poster in The Gathering Space. Questions? Contact Carol Cobb [ccjacob@aol.com](mailto:ccjacob@aol.com)

# Prayer List

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

## Celebrations

**Nathan Rauscher and Jo Patterson** - married this week.  
**Black History Month.**

## Concerns

**Christopher Haack** - healing small fractures, ligament injury in foot.  
**Rita Holly (Nouri)** - in ICU waiting for a heart transplant (Cindy Nouri).  
**Randy Cosby** - healing as multiple myeloma has returned (Reinhardt).  
**Marilyn Zucker** - healing after a fall and hip surgery (Litzinger).  
**Michael Tappy** - as he is in need of a heart transplant (Schmeloig).  
**Sera, Wyatt Watkins & family** as she is deployed until end of 2026.  
**Peace in Mexico** - safety for all, incl visitors like Diane Brost's nephew.  
**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

**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 Vennerlo** - awaiting a kidney transplant (McDougall).  
**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.**

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Mile Lent & Easter 2026

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### **Heifer International** [heifer.org](http://heifer.org)

Heifer International does more than put food in the mouths of hungry people. Heifer helps people to feed themselves. The goal of every Heifer project is sustainability -- project partners achieving self-reliance. And year after year, as partner families “pass on the gift” of knowledge and one or more of their animals’ offspring to others in need, they become links in a network of hope, dignity and self-reliance that helps hundreds of others care for themselves.

### **Lydia’s House** [lydiashouse.org](http://lydiashouse.org)

Lydia’s House offers secure housing and immediate community for women and children who are victims of domestic violence. We have 50 confidentially located, fully furnished apartments where families can find refuge, safety and support. Our transitional housing is one of the largest in the country and the only program of its kind in eastern Missouri.

Each family at Lydia’s House is provided an advocate to help guide them through the process of recovering from abuse. All family members are connected to support services, including individual and group resources, to help them build the skills that are necessary not only for surviving but thriving in the wake of trauma.

### **UP - *Unleashing Potential*** [formerly Neighborhood Houses] [upstl.org](http://upstl.org)

Neighborhood Houses has loved children in St Louis and helped resilient families to be even more so since 1913.

*Strengthening Resilient Families:* partners with families to strengthen their core foundation with sustainable resources to build stability. Our program focuses on building bridges between schools and families and empowering families with resources, education, and support to advance social-emotional and financial well-being while enabling children to focus on learning.

*After School Programs:* UP provides before and after school care for kids from Atlas Elementary (charter school), all elementary schools in the University City School District, and at Immanuel UCC for the

Ferguson/Florissant School District... fun & creative activities, homework assistance, character education, cultural awareness, health & fitness focus, arts & crafts, supervised recreation, and much more!

*GeoQuest Program:* expands access to education, hands-on learning, and skill training in geospatial technology for children in K-8 grades.

**Bread for the World** bread.org

*We can end hunger in our time.* Bread for the World is a Christian advocacy organization urging U.S. decision makers to do all they can to pursue a world without hunger. Bread's mission is to educate and equip people to advocate for policies and programs that can help end hunger in the U.S. and around the world.

Food banks are essential - and we must focus on advocacy. Why?

Because federal nutrition programs provide roughly 10 times as much food assistance as private churches and charities combined. With the stroke of a pen, our government leaders have the power to create policies and programs that impact millions of people at once.

Our faith in Jesus is the foundation for our mission and compels us to love our neighbors near and far. We are led by the values of our faith to stand up for those experiencing hunger all over.

*“Open your mouth for those who cannot speak, and for the rights of those who are left without help.”* --Proverbs 31:8a

**If you have a gift for 2<sup>nd</sup> Mile please mark it 2<sup>nd</sup> Mile.**

**Thank you.**

## **Pro Voice Support Group on Zoom**

In our current political climate, conversations about abortion - particularly for those who have had abortions personally - can feel overwhelming. This support group offers a confidential affinity space for those who have experienced abortion to share their stories and perspectives *without conditions or expectations*. ALL perspectives, emotions, and stories are welcome. This group is facilitated by a PUCCer with experience.

***What Does it Mean to be Pro-Voice?*** In our society, conversations around abortion are highly polarized and emotionally charged, and often focus on systemic impact rather than individual stories. For those who have personally experienced abortion, it can be difficult to find stigma-free spaces to express the full range of possible feelings that may come with that experience-- relief, grief, gratitude, guilt, empowerment, regret, etc. A pro-voice model centers the needs and stories of those who have had abortions without requiring them to adopt a prescribed set of emotions or beliefs about their experience.

***Who can attend this group?*** This space is open to anyone who has had an abortion at any point in their life. In order to ensure group confidentiality and safety, we ask that those who have not personally experienced abortion (e.g. family, partners, loved ones) to abstain from participating in this group.

***How can I attend?*** For more information (including meeting info and logistics), please reach out via this form by scanning or clicking QR code:

