



 **PARKWAY**
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



www.parkwayucc.org

March 22, 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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Joyce Ruiz, *Alzheimer’s Assn Faith Outreach Ambassador* [JoyceRuiz7@gmail.com]

Polly Rutherford, *Environmental Justice/Eco Stewards* [pollyrutherford@gmail.com]

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 Ashley Milam.

Flowers are given by Sue Moellering in memory of her mother, Katherine Biehl.

Treats provided by Michael, Donna and Ryan Ruzicka.

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

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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

3/26 Brad Brueggemann

3/27 Doug Detjen

3/28 Nate Jones-Goldstein

3/28 Ryan Shelton

Anniversary

3/26 Deb & Greg Carter

5th Sunday in Lent

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

When you see the (*), please rise in body or in spirit!

Prelude *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

Welcome Let us know you are here!

Meditation Each tear is a poet, a healer, a teacher. ~Rune Lazuli

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* (refrain)

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 Ezekiel 37:1-14 | Common English Bible

The Lord’s power overcame me, and while I was in the Lord’s spirit, I was led out and set down in the middle of a certain valley. It was full of bones. God led me through them all around, and I saw that there were a great many of them on the valley floor, and they were very dry.

God asked me, “Human one, can these bones live again?”

I said, “Lord God, only you know.”

God said to me, “Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the Lord’s word! The Lord God proclaims to these bones: I am about to put breath in you, and you will live again. I will put sinews on you, place flesh on you, and cover you with skin. When I put breath in you, and you come to life, you will know that I am the Lord.’”

I prophesied just as I was commanded. There was a great noise as I was prophesying, then a great quaking, and the bones came together, bone by bone. When I looked, suddenly there were sinews on them. The flesh appeared, and then they were covered over with skin. But there was still no breath in them. God said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, human one! Say to the breath, The Lord God proclaims: Come from the four winds, breath! Breathe into these dead bodies and let them live."

*Call to Worship

One:	We come from valleys of many kinds - places of weariness, uncertainty, and longing.
Many:	And the Spirit of God meets us here.
One:	In the prophet's vision, dry bones lay scattered across the valley floor. The question rose in the silence: <i>Can these bones live?</i>
Many:	God's breath still moves where hope seems lost.
One:	Where systems feel brittle, where communities feel fractured, where hearts feel tired -
Many:	The Spirit gathers what has been scattered.
One:	Bone joins to bone. Breath returns to bodies. Life stirs where there was only dust.
Many:	We trust the Spirit who brings renewal.
One:	Come, Holy Breath - into our worship, our communities, our world.
Many:	Breathe into us again, O God, that we may rise with courage, compassion, and hope.
One:	Let us worship the God who brings life to dry bones.
Many:	We come ready to listen, to breathe deeply, and to live.
All:	Let us worship our God together - Creator, Christ and Spirit.

*Song *Lord, If Only You Had Been Here*

(tune: *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*)

"Lord, if only you had been here, one I love would not have died."

Martha shared her grief with Jesus in these words she sadly cried.

Jesus said, "I'm resurrection. Martha, do you know it's true?"

"I'm the life for which you're longing." She said, "I believe in you!"

"Lord, if only you had been here!" Jesus heard these words again.

Mary, sitting home and waiting, spoke to Jesus of her pain.

So our Lord was deeply troubled in this world of death and sin.

Sometimes all we see is struggle; death and evil seem to win.

"Lord, if only you had been here," we cry out when all goes wrong —

When our grief is overwhelming, when life's troubles seem so strong.

Then, O Lord, we hear your answer: "I am resurrection — See!

Not just in some distant future — I am life! Now live in me!"

When we share your resurrection, when we know that you are life,
We find courage for our living in this world of pain and strife.
We your church will work for justice, welcome strangers, help the poor.
Faced with death, we'll be a witness: you are with us, Risen Lord.

***Lenten Candles** Questions Shape Us... *Can these bones carry us?*

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 and youth will gather in Room 13 (lower level) for the Opening Session. Children from age 3 to 2nd grade will then go to Room 12, children from 3rd to 5th grade will stay in Room 13, 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 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 *Jesus Loves the Little Children*

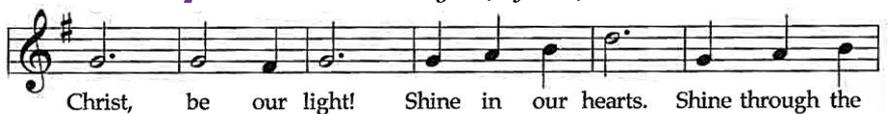
**Jesus loves the little children,
All the children of the world.
Every child in every land,
Jesus holds them by the hand.
Jesus loves the little children of the world.**

Scripture John 11:17-27 | New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition
When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon

A Time of Prayer *Christ Be Our Light (refrain)*



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 2nd Mile Lent/Easter

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

Offering Our Gifts to God

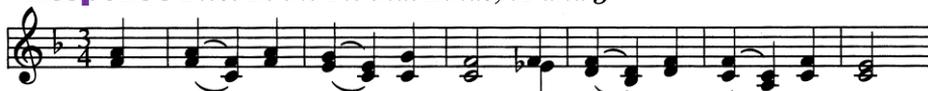


If you have an offering today, please place it in the plate on the stand next to the communion table before the end of the closing hymn. There are offering plates in the Gathering Space outside the sanctuary too. Thank you for your generosity.

www.parkwayucc.org/giving

Offering Interlude Improvisation on *In the Silence of the Heart (Hosea)* by Danielle Rose

*Response *Blest Be the Tie that Binds, v1 and 3*



1. Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Chris-tian love;
2. Be - fore our Ma - ker's throne We pour our ar - dent prayers;
3. We share our mu - tual woes, Our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
4. From sor - row, toil, and pain, And sin we shall be free;



The fel - low - ship of kin - dred minds Is like to that a - bove.
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, Our com-forts and our cares.
And of - ten for each oth - er flows The sym - pa - thiz-ing tear.
And per - fect love and friend-ship reign Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of life, like Martha of Bethany speaking with Jesus of Nazareth in the shadow of loss in the Gospel of John, we bring what we have - our gifts and our hope. Receive these offerings. May they become signs of new life in the world - hope where there is grief, care where there is need, and love that rises again. Amen.

*Song of Parting *You, O Christ, Are Resurrection*

(tune: *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*)

You, O Christ, are resurrection
In a world that's filled with pain
You reach out when we are hurting
And you lift us up again.
Battered women, hungry children,
Lonely people, those in need
Find in you a hope that's living
As they're welcomed, loved and freed.

You, O Christ, are resurrection
When we're caught up in our sin,
When we grieve the road we're traveling,
When we see what might have been.
You give healing and forgiveness
In the place of sin and strife.
Christ, we're drawn to what you give us —
Resurrection and new life.

You, O Christ, are resurrection
When a loved one's memories fade,
For you never will forget us —
We're the ones you came to save.
Lord, we trust that you will guide us
When each day brings grief and stress;
Living Christ, you walk beside us
Through this shadowed wilderness.

You, O Christ, are resurrection
When an illness takes its toll,
For the promise that you give us
Is that one day we'll be whole.
So we need not fear the future
When the way seems hard to bear;
You will gently guide and lead us
To the place that you prepare.

***Benediction and God's Light Goes Forth**

***Music for Going Forth** *There is a Wideness in God's Mercy*

Excess Supplies in Kitchen

We did a little spring cleaning of the kitchen cabinets, and we have wound up with an excess of supplies needing a home. They are located on the counter on the back of the kitchen -- available for the taking!

Speaker Series Occasional opportunities after worship at 11:15am **"The Psychology of Gun Violence: How Smart Choices Can Save Lives," by Professor Janet S. Hyde.**

TODAY | 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

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

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. 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 click or scan QR code to register, or contact Cindy Wessel to sign up at cindywessel@yahoo.com by **TODAY**.



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.

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 **TODAY**. 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

Tuesday Evening Dialogue

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

Please join us on **March 24** as we wrap up 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. Bring a dish to share for the pot luck & join us for our next book conversation! Newcomers 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.

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

The Adventurers Head to Gerald, Missouri Lunch and a Look at a Log Cabin

Friday, March 27 | 9:45am-2pm | 315 S. Pine St., Gerald, MO 63037
Are you ready for a drive in the country? Please join with the PUCC Adventurers on Friday, March 27th, as we head to Gerald, Missouri, for lunch at the Bistro at the Mill and to take a peek at Marion Pleis's log cabin. We'll have dessert at the cabin and take a brief look around. The cabin was built by a local carpenter and finished by Marion and Roger in the year 2000. It's just over an hour from PUCC. Gerald is a small city, population about 1400, in Franklin County along US Route 50. Gerald was platted in 1901 along a railroad line, and a small section of the Rock Island Trail runs through Gerald. In case of severe weather, the rain date will be Friday, April 17. If you would like a ride, we'll carpool from the church at 9:45am. We'll be back at the church by 1:30 or 2. Please RSVP to Jackie Eiffert by **Tuesday, March 24** to jeiffert2@gmail.com

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



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 ccjcoobb@aol.com

Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday: March 29 at 10am. This is a Fifth Sunday of the month, so expect palms in the cross and something unique to celebrate this exciting day. The people said, "Who is this?" as Jesus entered Jerusalem.

Maundy Thursday: April 2 at 6pm. We will move with the disciples ... share a simple soup supper around tables in the Gathering Space, go into the sanctuary for scripture about communion and foot washing, sing a bit and then finish our evening outdoors like Jesus and the disciples did. (We are looking for a couple of people who would be willing to coordinate the supper.)

Good Friday Prayer Service: April 3 at noon in the Historic Sanctuary.

Good Friday Evening: April 3 at 7pm in the Sanctuary. We will hear Jesus ask, "God, why have you forsaken me?"

Easter Prayer Vigil from the close of Good Friday worship for 36 hours. We are asking for people to be our PUCC prayer partner in one hour slots. Please sign up by clicking or scanning the QR code.



Easter Sunrise: April 5 at 6:30am in the cemetery behind the Historic Sanctuary. The angels and Jesus ask the women some questions.

Easter Worship: April 5 at 10am. The women ask, "Who will roll the stone away for us?" and we wonder what the disciples will do next.

Questions? Please reach out to kevin@parkwayucc.org

Historic Cemetery Cleanup

Sunday, March 29 | 11:15am-1:30pm | 1930 Windmoor Pl, Town & Country, MO
Clean up the Historic Cemetery! It's an area that doesn't get a lot of attention but needs plenty of care. So, bring a weed walker, chain saw, leaf rake and some leaf bags that you can take home in your vehicle for a fun time of upkeeping a sacred part of our heritage. Questions? Reach out to Joe Biondo at jjbiondo19@gmail.com

Trans Joy Street Fest Streetside demonstration; lunch provided

Sunday, March 29 | 12pm | Parkway UCC

Parkway UCC invites you to proclaim your support for Trans family members and friends along Ballas Rd/in front of the church. A light lunch of soup, bread, and cheese will be available. Bring your signs and palm branches, or use our signs! Wear pink/blue/white to show extra love! Scan or click QR code to RSVP for lunch count by **March 28**; no RSVP needed to hold signs.

(Trans Day of Visibility/ TDOV is celebrated worldwide on March 31 each year. See social media listings for other area events.)



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 *Theo of Golden*, a novel by Allen Levi. We'll discuss the book in thirds on **April 7, 21, and May 5**. We'd love to have you! The book has received a lot of attention and praise for its uplifting message. From the book jacket, "One spring morning, a stranger arrives in the small southern city of Golden. No one knows where he has come from...or why...A story of giving and receiving, of seeing and being seen, *Theo of Golden* is a beautifully crafted novel about the power of creative generosity, the importance of wonder to a purposeful life, and the invisible threads of kindness that bind us to one another." Join us for a welcome dose of positivity as we read and discuss *Theo of Golden*. Fellowship starts at 1:45 pm, and book discussion is from 2-3 pm. For more info, please contact Jackie Eiffert at jeffert2@gmail.com

Go AWOL this Winter—Adventurous Women Out Late

Sunday, April 19 @12pm Lunch and Spring Stroll.

Bring your lunch to church and we'll eat together after worship and adult education (ECO Stewards are planning something to celebrate Earth Day), then carpool to the Missouri Botanical Garden to enjoy the spring flowers! Feel free to meet us there if that is better for you. We will pay our admission at the door since some people have memberships. Click or scan QR code to register so Carmen knows how many are attending.



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 or contact Michelle Singer (mrsinger71@gmail.com) or Cindy Nouri (cynthianouri@gmail.com).

SAVE THE DATE Habitat for Humanity Workdays

On both of Parkway's UCC Habitat workdays, **July 11 and August 1**, continue Parkway UCC's hands on support of 40 years of Habitat since our members were heavily involved in bringing it to St. Louis. More details to come. For more info, reach out to Tom McKenzie at mckenzie1947@att.net

FunDrive Gratitude From Polly Rutherford

When we took on the Saver's FunDrive Challenge back in January, I had no idea how we would do it, but I was optimistic and set our goal at \$1000. As a first-time FunDrive, I was told that was pretty high.

You guys really proved we were up for the challenge. As our bags and boxes kept growing each week and our totals kept rising, we almost needed a bigger room to store everything. I don't know about you, but I kept digging deeper and finding more stuff to get rid of. Some things were hard to give away as they had memories attached, but that's what downsizing is all about and hopefully our cherished items will find their way into someone else's home. Besides the 15' truck rental, we filled up two pickup trucks and a trailer, thanks to Doug Yakel and Nick McMillon for their trucks and help with loading and unloading, also Mike Rutherford, Gabriel and youth group families, the Eco Steward committee and others who showed up to volunteer. Also, thanks to the Ruzicka's for not only helping, but for donating pizza to the workers Friday night.

Here's a recap of our totals:

Soft goods (black & white bags) - 3,683 lb

Household boxes - 2,009 lb

Books & media - 1,277 lb

Total Volume: 6969 lb

Total Earnings: \$1,063.34

plus \$75 towards the truck rental

FANTASTIC JOB EVERYONE!!!!!! ~Polly Rutherford



Prayer List

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

Celebrations

Women's History Month.

Concerns

Don Wandless - home after receiving some new hardware in his hip.

Pat Owens - healing after surgery from a fall; back at Mason Pointe.

Marilyn McDougall - strengthening in rehab after appendectomy.

Kathleen Tarr - preparing for surgery on 3/24 in Ohio.

Judy Brueggemann - continuing health challenges (Brad's mother).

Ongoing chaos in the Middle East - including for the people of Iran.

The continuing war with Ukraine and Russia.

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

US military and their families.

Continuing

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

Christopher Haack - healing of fractures and ligament injury in foot.

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

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

Dwyers - Leah's mother's serious head injury; Jeff's broken leg.

Rita Holly (Nouri) - waiting for a heart transplant (Cindy Nouri).

Michael Tappy - as he needs a heart transplant (Schmelig).

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

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).

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).

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).

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

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

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.

PUCF 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.

2nd Mile Lent & Easter 2026

Heifer International 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

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

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 2nd Mile please mark it 2nd 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:



The Depths of Forgiveness

Donna Schaper

Then Peter came and said to [Jesus,] “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times? Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.” – Matthew 18:21-22 (NRSV)

Jesus wasn't kidding. He meant we are to forgive infinitely, always, without limit.

Including someone who's harmed you. Including yourself when you've harmed someone. Including the people, the systems, the political parties you're determined to resist. Your anger may be right, even appropriate, but it's still anger. Anger destroys: first you, then others.

As Franz Kafka observed, there's always a cage somewhere looking for a bird. Mostly we fly into them instead of out of them. Sometimes anger is the breeze we fly on into the cage. Sin is an equal opportunity employer.

Research finds that people who show themselves grace when they've done wrong tend to have better mental and physical health (James McConchie, Greater Good Magazine, 2024 October 7). One researcher noted, “By self-forgiving, you are developing a view of yourself as imperfect yet with intrinsic worth that no one can take away from you.”

The deepest place is infinite forgiveness, constantly resolving our sins and our misdemeanors, constantly finding a way forward to the place of grace. Grace gives us the chance to try again to get it right.

Can you really right a harmful wrong? Yes, you can. First by forgiving yourself, and then by forgiving the people who hurt you so much that you “couldn't help yourself” in causing harm. You also seek forgiveness from the person you hurt as well. The math makes much more sense than the zero-sum game where you stay angry at yourself and your enemy.

Prayer

Help us help ourselves to resolve anger early and often. Help us forgive the people we can't help but hate, whoever they are. Amen.

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

God's kingdom is revealed and Jesus is sentenced to death (John 19:1-16a).

THE POINT

Jesus goes to the cross for us.

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

The kingdom of God is a concept that is found in the New Testament, mostly in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The kingdom is not a place but a reality when God's will of justice, peace, and love is done. The coming of this kingdom is central to Jesus' teachings; it is described both as something already present and also coming in the future. This future is described as the resurrection of the dead, judgment day, the coming of the Son of Man, and a new earth, among other things. In the Gospel of John, the kingdom of God is referred to as "eternal life."

STORY SUMMARY

Jesus was taken away and beaten. The soldiers placed a crown made out of thorns on his head and dressed him in a purple robe, saying to him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" as they hit him. When the leaders saw Jesus, they cried, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate wanted them to crucify him themselves, but the leaders told him that he needed to be crucified because he claimed that he was the Son of God. Pilate was afraid, tried to make Jesus talk, and even tried to release him. Pilate asked the crowd if he should crucify their king. When the crowd told him that Jesus was not their king, Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified.

PRACTICE: Worship

When we worship, we can reflect on times when we turn away from Jesus, and ask for God's forgiveness through confession. This week, engage in a time of confession and thanksgiving for God's forgiveness. Say a prayer together, and sing some of your favorite worship songs that talk about confession and forgiveness.

NEXT WEEK in Sunday School

Jesus enters Jerusalem with praise and shouts of "Hosanna!" Later, Jesus demonstrates that he is a different kind of king as he is crucified (John 19:16b-22 [12:12-27]).

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

