





www.parkwayucc.org

April 12, 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 Michelle Brueggemann.

Flowers given by Sue & Nick McMillon honor of Christy Welko - Sue's sister-in-laws' sister - who recently passed away.

Treats provided by Sue Moellering.

Our Prayer Chaplain this morning is Gabriel Requadt.



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://warmlines.org/warmdir.html>

Birthdays

4/14 Michael Comens

4/14 Betty Scherrer

4/15 Richard Hoch

4/15 Karen Nolte

4/15 Vivienne Reed

4/16 Alexander Doty

4/16 April Tallyn

4/16 Sheila Waddell

Anniversaries

4/12 Cathy & Rick Hasler

2nd Sunday of Easter

Sunday, April 12, 2026 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & YouTube Live

When you see the (*), please rise in body or spirit - depending on your comfort.

Prelude *Jesus is Risen; Jesus is Risen Indeed* by Wesley Johnson

Welcome Let us know you are here!

Meditation Insight without action is just memory. ~Brené Brown

Passing the Peace of Christ

“May the peace of Christ be with you.”

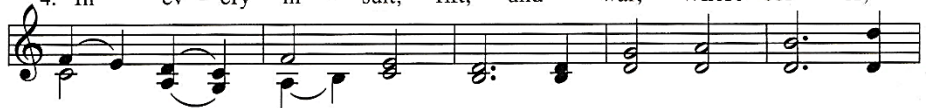
(We are intentional about bringing more peace into the world.)

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Welcome Song *Christ is Alive, v1-2*



1. Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
2. Christ is a - live! No long - er bound To dis - tant
3. Not throned a - far, re - mote - ly high, Un - touched, un -
4. In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war, Where col - or,



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
years in Pal - es - tine, But sav - ing, heal - ing,
moved by hu - man pains, But dai - ly, in the
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
here and now, And touch - ing ev - ery place and time.
midst of life, Our Sav - ior in the God-head reigns.
loves the more, And lives, where ev - en hope has died.

5. Christ is alive, and comes to bring Till earth and sky and ocean ring
Good news to this and every age, With joy, with justice, love, and praise.

Scripture John 20:19-31 | New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As God has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Musical Reflection *I Can't Wait*

by Kieran Kane, Kevin Welch and Fats Kaplin.

Special thanks to soloist Keith Doll (guitar, vocals)

Someday we'll roll away the stone
That we have carried for so long
All our burdens will be gone
And I can't wait

We will find our way to
An understanding of all views
No prayer shall be refused
I can't wait

It seems we have gone too far
And now we don't know where we
are
I believe we'll find a guiding star
But I can't wait

If faith is the final place
Where all fears have been erased
And the locks have fallen from the
gates
I can't wait

Someday we'll roll away the stone
That we have carried for so long
And all our burdens will be gone
And I can't wait

We will find our way to
An understanding of all views
No prayer shall be refused
I can't wait

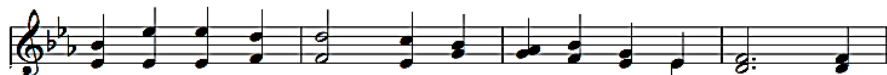
*Call to Worship

One:	Friends, we gather in a world still marked by fear and closed doors -
Many:	yet Christ comes and stands among us.
One:	Where we have doubted, Christ meets us with peace.
Many:	Where we have hidden, Christ breathes courage.
One:	This is the good news of Easter -
Many:	love is not locked out, and new life still finds a way in.
One:	So come - bring your questions, your hopes, your whole selves.
Many:	We are ready, eager and equipped to be Easter people -
One:	Committed to living not just for ourselves, but for one another too.
All:	Let us worship our God together - Creator, Christ and Spirit.

*Song *When Thomas Heard from Jesus* – Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (tune: *The Church's One Foundation*)



1. When Thom-as heard from Je - sus, "Now come and fol - low me," he
2. When Je - sus spoke of heav - en, bold Thom-as dared to say, "We
3. When crowds be - gan to mur - mur and lead - ers raised their cry, brave
4. What joy on Eas - ter eve - ning when man - y saw the Lord! Yet
5. That man of faith saw Je - sus at break-fast by the sea; at



sure - ly went with glad - ness, for there was much to see. He
 don't know where you're go - ing! How can we know the way?" He
 Thom - as spoke out firm - ly, "Let's go with him and dic." He
 Thom - as was not with them and would not trust their word. When
 Pen - te - cost he wit - nessed so oth - ers would be - lieve. O



wit-nessed Je - sus' teach - ing and saw his heal - ing touch; he
 want - ed un - der - stand - ing of what he could not see. Then
 ate at Je - sus' ta - ble, par - tak - ing wine and bread; yet
 Christ ap - peared be - fore him, his doubts were quick - ly gone; he
 Lord, may we, like Thom - as, keep grow - ing day by day; in -



found a faith to guide him, a friend he loved so much.
 Je - sus re - as - sured him, "The way is here, through me."
 lat - er with the oth - ers, he saw the cross and fled.
 glad - ly knew that eve - ning the joy of Eas - ter dawn.
 crease our faith and guide us, for Lord, you are the Way.

*Opening Prayer

God of resurrection and real presence, you come to us through locked doors and guarded hearts. You speak peace into our fear and breathe new life into our weary spirits. When we struggle to believe, meet us with grace. When we long for proof, show us the wounds that still heal the world. Send us, as you sent the disciples - not perfect, but courageous; not certain, but faithful; not alone, but filled with your Spirit. Make us a community where questions are welcomed, peace is practiced, and love is embodied for the sake of the world. In the name of the risen Christ, who meets us and sends us. Amen.

*Response *Spirit of the Living God*

Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me!
Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.

Children's Time For children under the age of 3, parents are invited to take them to Room 06 (upper level) where one of our teachers will meet them at the door. Children and youth will gather in Room 13 (lower level) for the Opening Session. Children from age 3 to 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' Hands Were Kind Hands*

Je - sus' hands were kind hands, do - ing good to all. Heal - ing pain and
Take my hands, Lord Je - sus, let them work for you. Make them strong and

sick - ness, bless - ing child - ren small. Wash - ing tir - ed feet and
gen - tle, kind in all I do. Let me watch you, Je - sus,

sav - ing those who fall. Je - sus' hands were kind hands, do - ing good to all.
till I'm gen - tle too. Till my hands are kind hands, quick to work for you.

Scripture Acts 2:42-47 | NSRVue

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

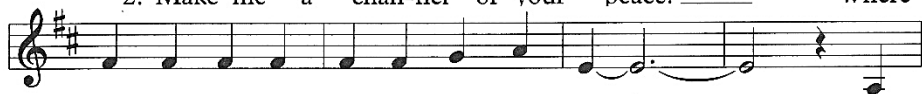
Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon

A Time of Prayer *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*



1. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. _____ Where
2. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. _____ Where



there is ha-tred, let me bring your love. _____ Where
there's de-spair in life, let me bring hope. _____ Where



there is in - ju - ry, your par-don, Lord, _____ and
there is dark - ness, _____ on - ly light, _____ and



where there's doubt, true faith in you. _____
where there's sad - ness, ev - er joy. _____

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.]

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 *Down to the River to Pray* (Traditional)

***Response** *They'll Know We are Christians*, v2-3 | #2223 *Blue Songbook*



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



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



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

Refrain



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



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

***Prayer of Dedication** based on Psalm 133

God of abundance and belonging, you remind us how beautiful it is when people live together in unity. Receive these gifts we offer today. Let them flow like blessing - bringing healing where there is hurt, refreshment where there is weariness, and justice where there is great need. Shape us, too, into generous people - open-handed, open-hearted, and ready to share in your work of renewal. May our lives become signs of your love, until all your children know dignity, community, and peace. Amen.

***Song of Parting** When Morning Gilds the Skies



- 1. When morn - ing gilds the skies, My heart a - wak - ing cries:
- 2. Does sad - ness fill my mind? A sol - ace here I find:
- 3. Let earth's wide cir - cle round In joy - ful notes re - sound:
- 4. Be this, while life is mine, My can - ti - cle di - vine:



May Je - sus Christ be praised! A - like at work and prayer
 May Je - sus Christ be praised! Or fades my earth - ly bliss?
 May Je - sus Christ be praised! Let air and sea and sky
 May Je - sus Christ be praised! Be this the e - ter - nal song



To Je - sus I re - pair: May Je - sus Christ be praised!
 My com - fort still is this: May Je - sus Christ be praised!
 From depth to height re - ply: May Je - sus Christ be praised!
 Through all the a - ges long: May Je - sus Christ be praised!

***Benediction**

***God's Light Goes Forth**

***Music for Going Forth** Easter Pandigai Geetham (Namudaiya Baskavagiya Christu) | Easter Anthem, traditional with harmonies by James Raja, transcribed for pipe organ

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

Speaker Series Occasional opportunities after worship at 11:15am **“The St. Louis Survivors Legal Support, a Lifeline to Victims of Domestic Violence,” by Judge Michael Burton.**

TODAY | 11:15am | Heritage Room

The St. Louis Survivors Legal Support provides free legal representation and advocacy for victims of intimate partner violence and their children in the St. Louis metropolitan area, aiming to improve their access to justice and help them obtain and enforce Orders of Protection.

This critical support system was founded by retired St. Louis County Circuit Judge, Mike Burton. Judge Burton has been the chairman of the St. Louis County Domestic and Sexual Violence Council and established the St. Louis County Domestic Violence Court. He has volunteered with Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Missouri, the Truancy Court of St. Louis County, and the Ferguson and Florissant school districts. Judge Burton's commitment to public service has been remarkable and unwavering, fighting for the welfare of families

“Savings Social Security; Hard Choices Ahead,” by Jon Haverman, PhD, Economics.

Sunday, April 26 | 11:15am | Heritage Room

One projection estimates that, by 2035, the Trust Fund for Social Security could be exhausted. There have been various proposals to address this shortfall, including: reducing government expenditures (raising the retirement age; tax increases; investment diversification; and borrowing). Dr. Jon Haverman is an expert in economics and has extensively studied the economics of Social Security and what lies ahead for this program. Jon is the founder of a not-for-profit education resource called NEED that provides key insights on a variety of economic topics. He has been a Speakers Series presenter in the past and has a reputation for providing audiences with edible, objective economic information. Questions? Richard Scherrer at 90fivetpr@gmail.com

Walk Off School Lunch Debt

TODAY | 1-4pm | Vlasik Park Pavilion #2; 300 Park Dr. Ballwin, MO

High School Seniors from Marquette, Parkway West, and Parkway Central cannot attend graduation if they have unpaid lunch debt. This walk will raise \$12K to eliminate school lunch debt for these students. You can participate by walking any number of miles, supporting a walker, or donating directly by scanning or clicking the QR code. All fitness levels and ages are welcome. The event is family friendly with food, fun, and community. For more info, contact No.School.Lunch.Debt@gmail.com



Tuesday Evening Dialogue

2nd and 4th Tuesdays | 6-8pm | Heritage Room

Zoom Meeting ID: 849 4403 9731; Passcode: 792617

Please join us at TED as we start our next book *The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife* by Anna Johnston. Described as bittersweet and remarkably perceptive, this book is a hilarious, feel-good, clever novel about grief, forgiveness, redemption and finding family. We will be covering up to Chapter 22 for our session on **Tuesday, April 14.**

Bring a dish to share for the potluck & join us for our next conversation!

Newcomers are always welcome!

Please join us in person at 6pm or on Zoom starting at 6:45pm. Contact Helen Race at raceh@att.net for questions.

Evidence, Empathy, & Excellence in Dementia Care

Friday, April 17 | 8am-4:30pm | 3545 Vista Ave, St. Louis, MO 63104

Join Memory Care Home Solutions and Saint Louis University School of Medicine in the Learning Resource Center for a one-day educational event.

This event is designed for healthcare professionals, caregivers, and anyone supporting loved ones with dementia. Participants will learn practical, evidence-based strategies for compassionate care, communication, and support from leading experts in the field. All are welcome—come learn how we can better care for our neighbors and families living with dementia. Learn more and register here: <https://memorycarehs.org/ceu/>

Align with PUC! New Member Sunday

Sunday, April 19 | 10am | New Sanctuary

Our church family is constantly changing. People come and go. Babies are born. Children grow up. People commit themselves to one another. Loved ones and friends among us come to the end of their lives. Individuals move into our community and church life. Others leave us, moving away to new places, new experiences, new opportunities. It is with joy and gratitude that we welcome new members into our worship, work and witness at Parkway UCC - in person or virtually. Membership at Parkway UCC could be the next step in your ongoing relationship with God and with other people of faith - though membership is not expected and certainly isn't necessary to be involved in worship, baptism, communion, weddings, funerals or other aspects of church life. As a church member, you have the opportunity to more intentionally grow personally, find a sense of belonging, form lifelong friendships, experience the joy of Christ, discover your spiritual gifts, become more intimate with God, develop your personal prayer style, expand your boundaries, become more Christ-like and more. With our congregational democratic polity, as a church member, you have a voice and vote within our church to weigh in on topics such as the annual budget, church vision, building decisions and more. If this is something you might be interested in, please let us know by reaching to Kevin in person, by phone or email kevin@parkwayucc.org; 314-872-9330.

Pollinator Garden Weeding and maintenance will happen **Monday, April 13** at 6:30pm, and will continue through the summer every Monday. Come and join us anytime.

Eco Stewards Earth-Day Plans

Please join us in the sanctuary, following service on **April 19** to see a beautiful slide show and presentation by Doug Tallamy. He'll share his own journey, turning long damaged farmland into ebullient, biodiversity without spending much money. Doug Tallamy is an entomologist and conservationist focused on native plants and biodiversity. Douglas Tallamy, author and professor of insects, conservation, and the environment, gives slide shows of his own research. He proposes expanding our national parks to our backyards. Yes, *you are Nature's Best Hope*. 71% of land in the lower 48 states is privately owned. We need nature to survive on our planet. It's a web of life. We must nurture it. For more info, contact Lynn Sableman lynnsableman@att.net

Adventurers at the Missouri Botanical Garden

Tuesday, April 21 | 10am | 4344 Shaw Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63110

Please join Adventurers and meet some new Parkway friends as we head to the Missouri Botanical Garden. It should be beautiful! You can walk around the garden at your own pace, individually or with a group, and we'll have lunch at a TBD location. Admission is \$6 for St. Louis City or County residents, and \$4 for seniors. Motorized scooters are available for rent for \$35. We'll meet at PUCC at 9:30am for carpooling or at the Garden at 10. RSVP to Jackie Eiffert, jeiffert2@gmail.com. We hope to see you then!

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 two more sections on **April 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 jeiffert2@gmail.com

Go AWOL this Spring—Adventurous Women Out Late

Saturday, April 25 @11am Lunch and Spring Stroll.

Meet at church at 11am to carpool to Panera Bread Co, and then spend the afternoon at 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.



Intertwine Interfaith Service Project & Red Cross Blood Drive Different faiths. One community. One shared humanity.

Sunday, April 26 | 11am-3pm | Parkway UCC

Blood Drive 11am-3pm in the Fellowship Hall; rsvp with Red Cross.

Service Project 1-2:30pm downstairs in Room 13. Scan or click QR code so Paige Penico knows how many people to expect.



Join us for a meaningful day of service and connection here at PUCG on Sunday, April 26, from 11am-3pm.

As part of the Intertwine Interfaith Service Project, people of many faith traditions will gather to assemble support kits - including Clean Up Buckets, Hygiene Kits, Period Packs, and Kids Kits - for neighbors in need. These kits will be delivered to the Festival of Sharing, an interfaith organization that distributes them to more than 150 approved agencies across Missouri. We will plan to have this happen at 1-2:30pm downstairs in room 13.

During the same time, we will also host a Red Cross Blood Drive. In a powerful reminder of our shared humanity, people of different faiths will come together to give something we all share—our time, our compassion, and even our blood—to help others. You don't need to bring anything except your kindness and willingness to serve as we put our faith into action together. Experience the joy of sharing.

To schedule an appointment to give blood, visit **RedCrossBlood.org** & enter the code INTERTWINE or call 1-800-RED-CROSS or call 1-800-733-2726. If you have questions, please contact Paige Penico at **andipaige@hotmail.com**

Prayer Corner an opportunity to pray with someone

Wednesday, April 29 | 6-8pm | 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:

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

April 2026 Alzheimer's News

One of the 8 habits dementia doctors do for better brain health, stay on top of your “heart” health. As the recent addition of high LDL cholesterol to The Lancet’s modifiable risk factors suggests, a lot of health considerations that are good for your heart are good for your brain, too. There may be multiple reasons for this, says Dr. Ertekin-Taner. One of them is that the brain needs healthy vasculature to function, get nutrients, and remove toxins, she says. Plus, most diseases that are bad for the heart, diabetes, high cholesterol, and high blood pressure - increase the risk of dementia. First, be sure to get annual checkups and take care of your heart, says Dr. Kaiser. You can also focus on following a heart-healthy diet like the Mediterranean diet (or even something called the MIND diet which was specifically developed to promote healthy cognition) with limited red meat, green leafy vegetables, and foods high in antioxidants. One specific benefit of eating foods like berries, veggies, and nuts is that they’re high in phytonutrients that protect cells against oxidative stress, which is associated with Alzheimer’s, says Dr. Kaiser.

For more details on current and future Alzheimer’s research, visit alz.org/Research. You can learn more by going to www.alz.org/help-support/resources or the Alzheimer’s Helpline which is accessible 24/7 via 800-272-3900 and staffed by master’s level clinicians to assist with crisis situations, decision making, and disease information. Tools and support are also available in Spanish.

Want to learn more about the Alzheimer’s Association and what they do here in St. Louis? Visit www.alz.org and/or contact PUCC’s Faith Outreach Ambassador with the Alzheimer’s Association, Joyce Ruiz at joyceruiz7@gmail.com

Sourdough Workshop

Saturday, May 2 | 10am | Fellowship Hall kitchen

Come join us to learn about making sourdough and gut health! You will take home a sourdough loaf ready to bake, an established sourdough starter, recipes and instructions, and a community of support!

Light snacks included. Scan or click QR code to RSVP by **April 26**. Cost is \$30/person, paid at the door, with a portion of the cost benefitting the PUCC youth mission trip.

Reach out to Michelle Brueggemann with questions,

michellebrue82@gmail.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 or contact Michelle Singer (mrsinger71@gmail.com) or Cindy Nouri (cynthianouri@gmail.com).

Missouri Mid-South Conference Women's Retreat

Register for the **2026 Conference Women's Retreat**, to enjoy a weekend of reflection and spiritual rest. The event is **May 1–3 at Camp MoVal**. Check-in begins at 5pm on Friday at the camp welcome center. Friday evening program begins at 7pm in the fireside room. Registration is available for the full weekend (\$170) or day-only (\$80). If you sign up for the day-only option, you are invited to all activities, including the Friday evening program. Contact alysha@mmsucc.org with any questions. Register by clicking or scanning QR code.



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. Click or scan QR to register. For more info, reach out to Tom McKenzie at mckenzie1947@att.net

Refusing Normalization

Cameron Trimble, UCC Pastor

Today, notice one thing that has become normalized that you know is not right. Name it clearly, even if only to yourself. Then take one step that interrupts that normalization.

- Speak about it with someone you trust.
- Write to a leader.
- Support an organization resisting it.
- Or simply refuse to participate in it where you have a choice.

This is how we remain awake.

This is how we live with integrity when systems fail.

A Prayer for Steadiness in Collapse

God of truth, You who remain when everything else is shaken, steady us now. Give us clear eyes to see what is breaking, and the courage to name it without fear. Guard us from becoming numb or indifferent. Strengthen us to act where we can, and to remain faithful where we must wait. Hold us in a hope that does not depend on outcomes, but on the integrity of how we live. Amen.

Prayer List

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

Celebrations

We are Easter people!

Michael Tapy - walking and getting stronger after heart transplant; prayers and gratitude for the donor and their family (Schmelig).

Yara Levin & other collegians - working on their senior thesis, etc.

Concerns

Mike Rutherford - healing after this week's knee replacement surgery.

Don Wandless - strengthening at home after a hospital stay.

Kris/Tom McKenzie - her breast cancer diagnosis; treatment plan set.

Gerry Rogers - cataract surgeries on April 7 and 15.

Pam Walker and Amy Yakel - coming along with their new knees.

Kathleen Tarr - healing after recent surgery in Ohio.

Laura Gywauli - living with acute myeloma leukemia (Reinhardt)

Memorial Service for Mildred Hoxie here at 11:30am this Saturday, April 11 ... *Visitation* in the Gathering Space at 11am.

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 - including our own **Sera Watkins** deployed thru '26 and **Anthony Williams**, US marine involved in Iran.

Jonathan McPeak - head trauma during missile attack on his ship in Iran; home now in the US (nephew of Karla Beck).

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]

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).
Judy Brueggemann - continuing health challenges (Brad's mother).
Rita Holly - waiting for transplant match (Nouri).
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).
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).
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.

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.
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.

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:



Hope for the Broken-Toothed

Tony Coleman

Pastor of First Congo UCC in Memphis

St Louis Association

Missouri Mid-South Conference of our UCC

*[Mary Magdalene said to them,] “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.
- John 20:13-14 (NRSV)*

My two front teeth aren't mine, or, at least, I didn't grow them. They're plastic or something. The story of why is too long to share, but the story of how is simple: Dentists put things in my mouth to build faux bone to help faux teeth take hold. Eventually, they succeeded. Sort of. Before the trauma that broke them, there was a gap between my teeth. It wasn't charming or cute, but it was mine. Now, there is no gap. Now, there is some other smile.

Along the “repair” journey, there were bridges that didn't hold and dentures that fell apart. Whenever I bit down the wrong way, I knew it. My stomach would seize, and I'd stay home for days, hiding my broken teeth. Years later, I sometimes still want to hide this strange “new” smile.

In the days after Easter, people struggled to recognize Jesus. Could it be that he didn't look like himself? If he still had the crucifixion-holes that Thomas saw, maybe the resurrected Jesus had a face that was swollen, broken, or different, too.

For the battered, bruised, and trauma-bearing among us, I believe Easter gives us the power to show up as we are. We can face the pain of awkward questions. We can muster the courage to come out of our caves. We can claim the scars and wounds and new, strange smiles.

Prayer

Broken God of Broken People, help us to go out and be loved, just as we are, just as you did.

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

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

