



 **PARKWAY**
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



www.parkwayucc.org

April 19, 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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Lana Biondo, *President of the Church Council* [puccpresident@parkwayucc.org]

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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 Ellie Svenson.

Flowers given by Stan & Kathy Burcham in loving memory of those we've lost, especially those who passed away in 2025 including Pam, Judy, and Cindy.

Treats provided by Peg Sant'Ambrogio.

Our Prayer Chaplain this morning is Kari Borgmann.



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/warmlines.html>

Birthdays

4/19 Cameron Carter

4/19 Carol Russell

4/23 Warren Biest

4/23 Dana Delibovi

4/23 Clara Zander

4/25 Matthias Gwyn

Anniversary

4/25 Laura & Phil Waite

3rd Sunday of Easter

Sunday, April 19, 2026 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & YouTube Live

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

Prelude Variations on *Blest Be the Tie that Binds*

Welcome Let us know you are here!

Meditation If we're going to follow Jesus, we have to get used to living differently - because no one can serve God and money. ~ Shane Claiborne

Passing the Peace of Christ

“May the peace of Christ be with you.”

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

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Welcome Song *You Are Welcome Here*

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "You are welcome here, no mat-ter who you are, no mat-ter where you are, on life's jour - ney, You are wel - come here, no mat-ter who you are, come and join with us, in our U - ni - ted Church of Christ..."

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

Scripture Luke 24:13-35 | New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?”

They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” He asked them, “What things?”

They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him.”

Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?”

Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.”

So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight.

They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together.

They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

*Call to Worship

One:	We gather as Easter people on the road - walking through a world of broken promises, wounded hope... and yet refreshed possibilities too.
Many:	We have seen systems that crush, powers that dominate, and dreams deferred for too many for far too long.
One:	Yet even here, the Risen Christ comes alongside - not above us, not distant, but among us.
Many:	Christ meets us in the struggle, in honest conversation, in the work of justice.
One:	Our hearts burn - not only with wonder, but with a call to change the world as it is.
Many:	We are here to be equipped and inspired.
One:	At the table, Christ is revealed - in broken bread and in lives poured out for others.
Many:	So we rise from this place and return to the world, ready to witness, ready to act, ready to hope.
One:	Come, let us worship the One who walks with us - and sends us back into the world transformed.
All:	Let us worship our God together - Creator, Christ and Spirit.

*Song *Emmaus-Bound on Easter Day* (Tune: *Though I May Speak* #335 | Red Hymnal)

Emmaus-bound on Easter Day,
Two travelers walked along the way.
They'd once had hope, but hope had died
When you, O Lord, were crucified.

When you appeared beside the two,
They could not see that it was you;
But as they talked and shared their pain,
You gave them hope and joy again.

For as you spoke to them God's word,
Explaining all they'd seen and heard,
They understood what God had done
And that a new day had begun.

They shared their home; you broke the bread.
They saw you, risen from the dead!
That moment's grace helped them to see
The gift of God's eternity.

In scripture and at table, too,
O Risen Lord, may we know you.
And may your presence give us grace
To share God's love in every place.

*Opening Prayer

God of new paths and burning hearts, You walk with us even when the road feels long, and You open our eyes to life beyond despair. Thank You for Your presence in unexpected places, for the spark of hope in the midst of struggle, and for companions who remind us we are not alone. Open our hearts to Your love today, that we may recognize You in one another, in acts of justice, in shared meals, and in the joy of serving a world made new. Let our worship today ignite courage, hope, and generosity, so we go from this place inspired to create a world where all may walk in dignity, peace, and love. 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 *Weave*

The musical score is written in G major, 4/4 time, and consists of four staves. The lyrics are: "Weave, weave, weave us to - geth - er, Weave us to - geth - er in u - ni - ty and love. Weave, weave, weave us to - geth - er, Weave us to - geth - er, to - geth - er in love." The chords are: C, Em, Dm, C, Dm, C, Dm, G, C, Dm, C, G, C. The piece ends with a double bar line and the word "Fine".

C Em Dm C

Weave, weave, weave us to - geth - er,

Dm C Dm G

Weave us to - geth - er in u - ni - ty and love._____

C Em Dm C

Weave, weave, weave us to - geth - er,

Dm C G C

Weave us to - geth - er, to - geth - er in love. *Fine*

Reception of New Members

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 today!

Questions of the Candidates

Carole Barner

Vicki Guth

Ruth and Herb Huebner

Emma Zyriek-Rhodes

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Question About Participation

Welcome and Reception

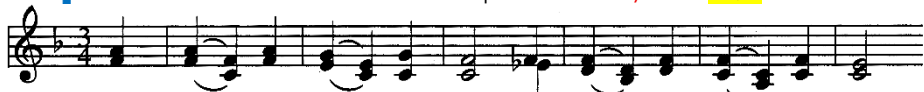
One:	Let us, the members of Parkway United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.
All:	We welcome you with joy into the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of Jesus.

Greeting of Christian Love

Sponsors:	In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of Parkway United Church of Christ, we extend to you the hand of Christian love, welcoming you into the family of this local church.
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Prayer

Response *Blest Be the Tie that Binds* | #438 Red Hymnal v1, 3



1. Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Chris-tian love:
2. Be - fore our Ma - kcr'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.

Scripture Acts 4:32-35 | NRSVue

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon

A Time of Prayer *For One Great Peace*



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



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



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

Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

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

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

Leadership Moment *Limitless Love: Fellowship Ministry*

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 *Walking With Jesus (I Come to the Garden)*

by Austin Miles

*Response *Praise God Whose Many Names Abound*

**Praise God whose many names abound;
Our Peace, our Rock, Our Holy Ground,
Our Home, our All, Earth's Majesty,
Love, Spirit, Light and Mystery. Amen**

*Prayer of Dedication

God of abundance, You call us into a community where no one is in need, where gifts are shared freely, and hearts are united. We bring these offerings not as an obligation, but as a witness to Your love and justice. Let what we give today support those who are overlooked, those whose voices are silenced, and those whose needs are ignored by the world. Transform these gifts into hope, compassion, and tangible care, so that our community reflects the generosity of the early church - a generosity that does not hoard, but opens doors, heals wounds, and invites everyone to the table. Bless the givers and the receivers alike, and remind us that we are all stewards of Your abundance, called to share boldly, live generously, and work together for a world of equity and peace. Amen.

*Song of Parting *O For a World* | #386 Red Hymnal



1. O for a world where ev - ery - one Re - spects each oth - er's ways,
2. O for a world where goods are shared And mis - er - y re - lieved,
3. We wel - come one world fam - i - ly And strug - gle with each choice
4. The poor are rich, the weak are strong, The fool - ish ones are wise.



Where love is lived and all is done With jus - tice and with praise.
Where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, E - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
That o - pens us to u - ni - ty And gives our vi - sion - voice.
Tell all who mourn; Out - casts be - long, Who per - ish - es will rise.

*Benediction

*God's Light Goes Forth

*Music for Going Forth *Appalachian Paschal Hymn*

by Vladimir Moroson, transcribed for pipe organ

Eco Stewards Earth-Day Plans

Please join us in the sanctuary, following service on **TODAY** 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

Pollinator Garden Weeding and maintenance will happen

Monday, April 20 at 6:30pm, and will continue through the summer every Monday. Come and join us anytime.

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

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!

Program to Support Trans Missourians

Tuesday, April 21 | 11am | Tower Grove Park, Humboldt North Pavilion, 4145 Main Dr.

Join members of the LGBTQ+ Faith Alliance as it presents its public Statement in Support of Trans, Nonbinary and Intersex Missourians (which Parkway UCC has signed and endorsed). The statement proclaims the wholeness and holiness of LGBTQ+ people and demands the Missouri's Legislature stop its persecution of Missouri's trans youth. This short program includes a chorus of diverse voices reading the statement, music, poetry, and a special blessing for trans, intersex, and nonbinary bodies. This is outdoors; please bring a lawn chair and join us at this media event to support the trans/intersex/nonbinary community. For more info, contact Deb Reinhardt deborahreinhardt@att.net

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

Isaiah 58 Presents: Wedding Dress Pop-Up Boutique

Location: 4164 Chippewa St (the Old Wedding Gallery)

Isaiah 58 Ministries is excited to host a Pop-Up Bridal Boutique featuring a beautiful collection of wedding dresses generously donated by the Wedding Gallery—the same partners who helped make their new building possible. Whether you're planning your big day or know someone who is, this is a unique opportunity to find a stunning dress at an incredible value. Dresses originally priced from \$500–\$4,000 will be available at *50% off or more*.

Friday, April 24 | 5-8pm

First Peek Event

Enjoy early access to the collection for a **\$20 entry fee** (applied toward any dress purchase).

Saturday, April 25 | 9am-6pm

Open shopping for all—no entry fee.

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.



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**

Family Friendship Potluck

Sunday, April 26 | 11:15am | Parkway UCC

Calling all families! Looking for a way to let the kids burn off some energy while you catch up with friends? Join us for our Family Friendship Potluck on Sunday, April 26! We're turning the church playground into the ultimate hangout spot immediately following the service. It's the perfect chance to relax, enjoy the fresh air, and build some great memories with our community. We've got the basics covered! We'll be serving up Juicy Grilled Hotdogs, Ice-Cold Lemonade, and Parkway UCC's own Refreshing Water. Let's make it a feast! Families can bring along a little something to share. Think easy-to-grab favorites like fresh fruits, tantalizing cookies, crunchy pretzels, or any of your go-to family snacks! If the rain decides to join us, don't worry! We'll simply move the party to the downstairs rooms. The fun happens either way! We can't wait to see your family there for an afternoon of food, laughter, and friendship!

Speaker Series Occasional opportunities after worship at 11:15am “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

Tuesday Evening Dialogue

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

Zoom Meeting ID: 849 4403 9731; Passcode: 792617

Please join us at TED for our second session on *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 discussing the book up to Chapter 42 for our session on **Tuesday April 28**.

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

Newcomers are always welcome!

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

Prayer Corner an opportunity to pray with someone

Wednesday, 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

Be a Buddy! Special Olympics Spring Games

Saturday, May 2 | 8:15am-3pm | Westminster Academy

This is one of the most rewarding volunteer jobs of all time! You will be paired directly with 1-2 athletes. You are required to spend the entire day together, accompanying them to each of their events to ensure they are on time and cheer for them as they compete, eat lunch together and visit Victory Village.

Note: Due to the nature of this job, you must be over the age of 16 (or directly accompanied by someone who is) and must be able to commit to this job for the entire day or until your athlete leaves. PUC is gathering four volunteers to join Kevin in the role of BUDDY! Click or scan the QR code to register. For more info or encouragement ... or if you need help registering, contact Kevin Cameron

at **kevin@parkwayucc.org**



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 PUC youth mission trip.

Reach out to Michelle Brueggemann with questions,

michellebrue82@gmail.com



Respect MO Voters: Sign, Volunteer, Donate

Many have signed Respect MO Voter's petition for a ballot initiative to secure and strengthen the initiative petition process in Missouri which is currently under attack by our legislature. Our time is running out to get the required number of signatures and are in great need of volunteers and signatures immediately. This petition is nonpartisan. Will you give a few hours to help protect initiative petition rights for all Missouri voters? If we sit this one out, the right could be taken forever. If we act now, we can preserve it.

Let's not look back and wish we would have done more. Please sign up at respectmovoters.org/join 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.



Common Ground- visions of unity, purpose & joy: Paintings & Poetry by Angela L. Chostner

Thursday, May 14 | 4:30-7:30pm | Longview Farmhouse Art Gallery
Celebrate the strength of the human spirit and rediscover the ways we are all connected! Meditative paintings and poetry by St. Louis artist (and PUCers) Angela L. Chostner invite viewers to journey within. This solo exhibition features vibrant acrylic paintings, poems to reflect upon, and a participatory room for self expression. Consider what happens when we choose not to weigh the world, but to create a new way. Art Opening free, all are welcome.



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

Prayer for Pope Leo XIV

Maren Tirabassi

Gracious God, people of many faiths pray in gratitude for Pope Leo, who speaks out with courage from the depths of Christian scripture and a heart of human compassion, against the ongoing unjust war in Iran, and the threat of deadly violence unleashed on non-combatant citizens.

We are grateful for his wisdom, his willingness to protect all human beings, his strong leadership and depth of prayer,

and his ability to remain pastoral in the midst of vulgar criticism.

We pray, as well, for his trip into Africa – for interfaith dialogue and on to bless and lead worship with leaders and faithful Christians in Algeria and Cameroon, in Angola and Equatorial Guinea.

This we pray, each from the depths of our own faith journeys.
Amen

Prayer List

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Celebrations

We are Easter people!

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

Pope Leo standing boldly for peace & other Christian values (see below)

New Member Sunday 4/19 at PUCC - Carole, Emma, Herb, Ruth, Vicki.

Concerns

Memorial Service for Mildred Hoxie here last Saturday.

Gabriel Requadt - grieving his father, Michael.

Mike Rutherford - healing after recent knee replacement surgery.

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

Gerry Rogers - second cataract surgery on April 15.

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

Kathleen Tarr - healing after recent surgery in Ohio.

Ed and Mary Calcaterra - as he receives hospice care (Litzinger).

Laura Gywauli - living with acute myeloma leukemia (Reinhardt).

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 and doing better (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).
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.
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.

The God of Leftovers

Hannah Burge Sachs

[Jesus] told his disciples, “Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.” - John 6:12 (NRSV)

Often what I have to offer feels like a collection of scraps: a sermon half-drafted on my laptop, laundry stalled mid-fold on the couch, phone calls interrupted by someone calling “Mama!” As a disabled pastor and parent of young toddlers, my capacity shifts from day to day, and life arrives in fragments no planner can hold together.

All the while, suffering and injustice abound. I want to be part of God’s work in this moment, to lead protests, participate in direct action, and show up in bold ways for our neighbors. Yet many days the reality of what I manage is a bit smaller: a call to my representatives between diaper changes, a quiet prayer whispered in a waiting room, a kind word to a friend. Not nothing—but not the fullness I long for.

Which is why I keep circling back to this little line at the end of the feeding miracle. After the multitude is fed, Jesus doesn’t move on with fanfare. Instead, he turns to his disciples and says, “Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.”

What an unmiraculous instruction for a miracle story! If you can multiply bread out of thin air, why bother with crumbs? But the twelve baskets of leftovers, one for each disciple, are essential to the work of the Spirit in this moment. In God’s economy, the fragments matter. The pieces we think are too small, too broken, too late are gathered with tenderness and intention, held as part of the whole story God is telling.

The miracle isn’t only that thousands were fed. The miracle is that nothing was wasted. Not one crust or crumb.
If that is true of bread, it is true of us.

Prayer

Gathering God, gather up the leftovers of this day. Let nothing be wasted, nothing be lost. Bless these small fragments and make them bread for your beloved world. 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

Saul, a persecutor of Christians, has a vision of Jesus on the road to Damascus that changes his life dramatically (Acts 9:1-19a).

THE POINT

God sometimes calls the most unlikely people to do the work of spreading the gospel.

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

Saul, commonly known by his Greek name, Paul, traveled extensively throughout the lands surrounding the Mediterranean Sea. His three main missionary journeys took him through present-day Israel, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Greece, Cyprus, and Italy. A fourth, final journey led him to Rome, where he is thought to have been executed in 62 CE. On his journeys, Paul wrote letters to encourage the growing Christian communities he often helped start. These letters make up part of our New Testament.

STORY SUMMARY

Saul was persecuting Christians. On his way to Damascus, a light struck Saul blind, and he heard the voice of the Lord telling him to continue to the city where he would receive new instructions. In Damascus, a man named Ananias had a vision in which the Lord told him to go to Saul, lay hands on him, and fill him with the Holy Spirit. When Ananias did this, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again.

PRACTICE: Service

God calls us to serve others, often in unexpected ways. As a family, think of a volunteer or service activity to do together this week that would surprise the recipient.

NEXT WEEK in Sunday School

When Paul and Silas are imprisoned for sharing the gospel, an earthquake opens their cell door and a prison guard comes to believe (Acts 16:16-34).

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!

