



PARKWAY
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



www.parkwayucc.org

April 5, 2026

Contents

- 3 Birthdays and Anniversaries
- 4 Sunrise Worship
- 9 Prayer List

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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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.

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 Emma Zyriek-Rhodes.

We have several serving opportunities each Sunday.

Please consider providing flowers for worship or treats for Fellowship Time. We also have spots for scripture readers and prayer chaplains.



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

4/6 Florence Simonson

4/6 Sera Watkins

4/7 Joyce Ruiz

4/9 Phill Waite

4/9 Casca Zander

4/11 Nancy Wessinger

Easter Sunrise Service

Sun, April 5, 2026 | 6:30am | Elm Lawn Cemetery ~ Historic Sanctuary

Meditation Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end. ~Seneca

Welcome to Parkway UCC on this morning of *Alleluias!*
Easter is a time of great joy! Early in the morning, however, the story begins in dark, cold, quiet. Going to the tomb in the darkness like Mary and some of the disciples did so long ago, we are warmed and encouraged by prayers, songs, community, the “new fire” and the sacrament of communion. The Day of Resurrection dawns on us as we begin to see things more clearly like they did that early morning. They believed that all was lost, that Jesus and his mighty mission were over...tears flowed...but this sunrise moment reminds us that there is always a split second when there is suddenly more of one thing than the other...this story is all dark and dread and grief...then comes light and love and resurrection...and the tears flow again. Then they go in the power of this love. Alleluia!

Prelude *Cello Solo at Easter Dawn*

***Hymn** *Were You There?*

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

v.2 **Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?...**

v.3 **Were you there when God wept at Mary's cry?...**

***Lighting the New Fire**

As fire is a source of warmth and light, the new fire of the Easter Vigil represents the victory in Christ of light and life over darkness and death.

The Angels and Jesus ask Mary: 'Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?'

*Call to Worship

One:	Before the sun rises, before certainty returns, before hope feels real -
Many:	We come in the dark, like Mary, seeking, grieving, wondering.
One:	She came to the tomb carrying love and loss.
People:	And she found the stone rolled away, the story undone, the world turned upside down.
One:	She wept. She questioned. She was questioned. She stayed.
Many:	And in her staying, in her courage to remain, she heard her name.
One:	“Mary.”
Many:	And everything changed.
One:	This is the morning when death does not get the last word.
Many:	This is the moment when love refuses to stay buried.
One:	So come with your questions, your sorrow, your hopes not yet fully formed.
All:	Come and listen for your name. Come and witness resurrection. Come and rise.

*Opening Prayer

God of the garden, God of the breaking dawn, we come to you in this tender hour - carrying what Mary carried: love, grief, confusion, and a longing for what has been lost. Meet us here in the in-between space - between night and morning, between death and life, between what was and what could be. Like Mary, we do not always recognize resurrection at first. It comes quietly, through tears, through questions offered and received, through the sound of our own name spoken in love.

So call us again, O God.

Call us by name - not as the world defines us, but as You know us: beloved, worthy, alive. Open our eyes to the ways resurrection is already unfolding - in courage where there was fear, in justice where there was oppression, in community where there was isolation.

And send us out, like Mary, to be bearers of good news - not polished or perfect, but honest and brave: witnesses to love that will not stay buried.

As the sun rises, so does hope. As the light grows, so does life. And we rise with it. Amen.

Hebrew Scripture Lesson Psalm 118, selected verses

O give thanks to God - for God is good. God's steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say, "God's steadfast love endures forever."

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to God.

I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

This is God's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that God has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Save us, we beseech you, O God!

We beseech you, give us success!

Blessed is the one who comes in God's name. We bless you from the house of God.

God has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.

O give thanks to God, for God is good. God's steadfast love endures forever!

Response *Were You There?*

Were you there when He rose up from the tomb?

Were you there when He rose up from the tomb?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when He rose up from the tomb?

Gospel Lesson John 20:1-18 | NRSVue

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus's head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb.

As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She 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 around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to God. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to God - to my God, your God, our God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Solo *In Christ Alone* Michelle Brueggemann
words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

Sermon

***Response** *This is the Day*

**This is the day, this is the day
That our God has made, that our God has made;
We will rejoice, we will rejoice
And be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that our God has made,
We will rejoice and be glad in it;
This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made.**

**This is the day, this is the day
Jesus rose again, Jesus rose again;
We will rejoice, we will rejoice
And be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day Jesus rose again,
We will rejoice and be glad in it;
This is the day, this is the day
Jesus rose again.**

Easter Prayers, 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.

The Sacrament of Communion at our Open Table

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Holy One, we give you thanks for this simple and sacred meal. It roots us, grounds us, and sets us free with your love. As we prepare to go from this place, stay with us in ways that we can feel and trust and share. We want to travel with you and for you. We want to share the gifts of your Spirit far and wide. Amen.

***Hymn** *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*

**Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, glad heavens, and earth reply: Alleluia!**

**Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia!
God has opened paradise, Alleluia!**

**Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!**

***Benediction**

***Postlude** *Morning Has Broken*

Prayer List

Wednesday, April 1, 2026

Celebrations

Holy Week and Easter!

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

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

Pam Walker - recuperating from last week's knee replacement surgery.

Amy Yakel - strengthening after her knee replacement last week.

Kathleen Tarr - healing after last Tuesday's surgery in Ohio.

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

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

Marilyn McDougall - home after rehab post-appendectomy.

Memorial Service for Mildred Hoxie here at 11:30am on 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; on his way home (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.

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 PUCer 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:

