



 **PARKWAY**
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



www.parkwayucc.org

June 28, 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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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 Emma Zyriek-Rhodes.

Flowers given by Greg Schmelig in honor of Pridefest.

Treats provided by Ruth and Herb Huebner.

Our Prayer Chaplain this morning is Emma Zyriek-Rhodes.



If you would like to volunteer for any of these serving opportunities or join the corresponding group, please scan the QR code and click on the **Serving Opportunities Calendar**. Thanks!

Subscribe to our email lists Sign up at www.parkwayucc.org

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Mental Health Support

988 (new nationwide 3-digit number similar to 911... call or text)

24/7 Crisis Hotline 800-273-8255 (TALK) | 800-SUICIDE: 800-784-2433

24/7 Missouri Department of Mental Health 800-811-4760

Text 741741 and someone will text right back...www.crisistextline.org

Behavioral Health Network of Greater St Louis 314-449-6713

The numbers below are called Warmlines (not Hotlines).

They are peer run by people with lived experience.

Not all of them are 24/7/365

Teen Warm Line: 1 800-248-8336

Black Warm Line: 1-800-604-5841 (They are divested from the police)

Trans Warm Line: 1-877-565-8860

Project Return Warm Line: 1-800-448-9777 (run away)

Learn more about warm lines: <https://warmline.org/warmdir.html>

Birthdays

6/29 June Deuser

6/30 Peg Sant'Ambrogio

6/30 Andrew Waddell

6/30 Nancy Litzinger

7/4 Gladys Sims

Anniversaries

6/30 Dan & Lori Connors

7/2 Mike & Polly Rutherford

5th Sunday *after* Pentecost

Sunday, June 28, 2026 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & YouTube Live

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

Prelude *On Wings of Song* by Felix Mendelssohn (Adapted by John Thompson)

Welcome Let us know you are here!

Meditation Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – God's good, pleasing and perfect will. ~Romans 12:2

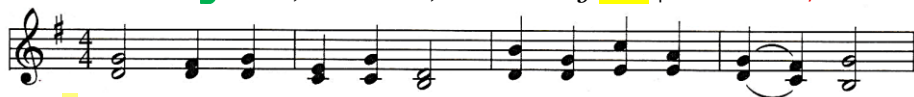
Passing the Peace of Christ

“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 *Come, Christians, Join to Song* v1-2 | #150 Red Hymnal



1. Come, Chris-tians, join to sing Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
2. Come, lift your hearts on high; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
3. Praise yet our Christ a - gain; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!



Loud praise to Christ our King; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
Let prais - es fill the sky; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
Life shall not end the strain; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!



Let all, with heart and voice, Be - fore His throne re - joice;
He is our guide and friend; To us He'll con - de - scend;
On heav-en's bliss - ful shore His good - ness we'll a - dore,



Praise is His gra-cious choice; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
His love shall nev - er end; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
Sing - ing for - ev - er - more, “Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!”

Gospel Lesson Matthew 10:40-42 | New Revised Standard, Updated
Jesus said, "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.

Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous, and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple - truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

***Call to Worship**

One: Jesus reminds us that when we welcome one another, we welcome the Holy One who sends us.

Many: We come to welcome friend and stranger, neighbor and newcomer.

One: In every act of kindness, compassion, and hospitality, God's love is made visible.

Many: We come to share that love freely and generously.

One: Even a simple gift - a cup of cold water, a word of encouragement, a helping hand - can become a blessing.

Many: We gather to be a blessing and to receive blessings from one another.

One: God meets us in every act of welcome.

All: Let us worship our God together - Creator, Christ and Spirit.

***Song** Gather Us In | #2236 Blue Songbook



1. Here in this place new light is stream- ing,
2. We are the young — our lives are a mys - t'ry,
3. Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter,
4. Not in the dark of build - ings con - fin - ing,



now is the dark - ness van - ished a - way,
we are the old — who yearn for your face,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
not in some heav - en, light - years a - way, but



see in this space our fears and our dream - ings,
we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day. ____
called to be light to the whole hu - man race. ____
call us a - new to be salt for the earth. ____
now is the King - dom, now is the day. ____



Gath - er us in — the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in — the
Gath - er us in — the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in — the
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so low - ly,
bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
make us your own; gath - er us in — all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name. ____
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song. ____
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true. ____
fire of love in our flesh and our bone. ____

*Opening Prayer

Holy One, gather us in from many places and many experiences. Gather us in from our joys and our worries, our questions and our certainties, our hopes and our fears. As we sing of your light shining in this place, remind us that you meet us not only in moments of comfort, but also in stories that challenge us and stretch our understanding. Open our hearts to hear ancient voices and discover new wisdom. Give us courage to wrestle with difficult texts, faith to trust your presence in times of uncertainty, and compassion that reflects your love for all your children. Gather us into a community where questions are welcomed, where justice is pursued, and where love is stronger than fear. May this time of worship draw us closer to you and to one another, as together we seek the path of life and peace. Amen.

*Response *Spirit of the Living God* | #322 *Red Hymnal*

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 *I have Decided to Follow Jesus*

1. I have de - cid - ed to fol-low Je - sus, I have de -
cid - ed to fol-low Je - sus, I have de - cid - ed to fol-low
Je - sus — no turn-ing back, no turn-ing back.

Psalter Lesson Psalm 13 | Inclusive Language Psalter

How long, O Lord? Will you forget me for ever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

How long shall I have perplexity in my mind, and grief in my heart, day after day? How long shall my enemy triumph over me? Look upon me and answer me, O Lord my God; give light to my eyes, lest I sleep in death; lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over this one," and my foes rejoice that I have fallen. But I put my trust in your mercy; my heart is joyful because of your saving help. I will sing to the Lord who has dealt with me richly; I will praise the name of the Lord Most High.

Hebrew Scripture Lesson Genesis 22:1-14 | Common English Bible

After these events, God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!"

Abraham answered, "I'm here."

God said, "Take your son, your only son whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah. Offer him up as an entirely burned offering there on one of the mountains that I will show you."

Abraham got up early in the morning, harnessed his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, together with his son Isaac.

He split the wood for the entirely burned offering, set out, and went to the place God had described to him.

On the third day, Abraham looked up and saw the place at a distance.

Abraham said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will walk up there, worship, and then come back to you."

Abraham took the wood for the entirely burned offering and laid it on his son Isaac. He took the fire and the knife in his hand, and the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father?"

Abraham said, "I'm here, my son."

Isaac said, "Here is the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the entirely burned offering?"

Abraham said, "The lamb for the entirely burned offering? God will see to it, my son."

The two of them walked on together.

They arrived at the place God had described to him. Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He tied up his son Isaac and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. Then Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to kill his son as a sacrifice. But the Lord's messenger called out to Abraham from heaven, "Abraham? Abraham?"

Abraham said, "I'm here."

The messenger said, "Don't stretch out your hand against the young man, and don't do anything to him. I now know that you revere God and didn't hold back your son, your only son, from me." Abraham looked up and saw a single ram caught by its horns in the dense underbrush. Abraham went over, took the ram, and offered it as an entirely burned offering instead of his son. Abraham named that place "the Lord sees." That is the reason people today say, "On this mountain the Lord is seen."

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon

A Time of Prayer *You Are My Hiding Place* | #2055 Blue Songbook

①




You are my hid - ing place. You al - ways



fill my heart with songs of de - liv - er-ance, when-ev-er I am a -

②



fraid, I will trust in you, I will trust in



you. Let the weak say, "I am strong in the

Repeat ending | *Song ending*



strength of the Lord." Lord. I will trust in you."

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 *Isaac and Abraham* by Joan Baez, A capella

Hard times, hard times in Canaan land
Trouble in the mind of a man
A voice came whispering softly to him
Go offer, offer up the lamb

Abraham took his only son
High up on a hill
His test of faith had finally come
As the wind, the wind begin to chill

Cold steel, cold steel in the father's hand
Tears falling from the sky
The angels, the angels did not understand
Why the righteous, the righteous boy should die

Abraham most mysteriously
Laid down that deadly knife
Said, "My darlin' son, I wish I was the one
Who spared you, spared your precious life"

Oh Isaac, the light of all your days
Will shine upon this mountain high
And never, never fade away
And never fade away

***Response** *Let There be Peace on Earth* | #677 Chalice Hymnal



Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me;



let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.



With God our cre - a - tor, chil - dren all are we.



Let us walk with each oth - er in per - fect har - mo - ny.



Let peace be - gin with me; let this be the mo - ment now.



With ev - ery step I take, let this be my sol - emn vow:



to take each mo - ment and live each mo - ment in peace e - ter - nal - ly.



Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me.

***Prayer of Dedication**

God of peace and justice, receive these gifts and receive our lives. Bless what we have offered, and use it to bring hope where there is despair, welcome where there is exclusion, and peace where there is conflict. As we sing of peace on earth and follow Christ into the crowded ways of life, send us beyond these walls to be makers of peace, seekers of justice, and bearers of compassion. May our giving become service, our worship become action, and our faith become love made visible. Amen.

*Song of Parting *Where Cross the Crowded Ways* v1,4,6 | #408 Red Hymnal



1. Where cross the crowd - ed ways of life, Where sound the
2. In haunts of wretch - ed - ness and need, On shad - owed
3. From ten - der child - hood's help - less - ness, From hu - man
4. The cup of wa - ter given for Thee Still holds the



cries of race and clan, A - bove the noise of
thresh - olds fraught with fears, From paths where hide the
grief and bur - dened toil, From fam - ished souls, from
fresh - ness of Thy grace; Yet long these mul - ti -



self - ish strife, We hear Thy voice, O Son of Man.
lures of greed, We catch the vi - sion of Thy tears.
sor - row's stress, Thy heart has nev - er known re - coil.
tudes to see The sweet com - pas - sion of Thy face.

5. O Master, from the mountainside,
Make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
Among these restless throngs abide,
O tread the city's streets again;
6. Till all the world shall learn Thy love,
And follow where Thy feet have trod;
Till glorious from Thy heaven above
Shall come the city of our God.

*Benediction

*God's Light Goes Forth

*Music for Going Forth *O Jesus, I have Promised*

Make a Joyful Noise!

Summer Sundays - come at 9am to practice and sing in the worship service.

1st Sunday: Soprano and Alto voices.

(Historically "women's voices," properly "higher voices")

2nd Sunday: Tenor and Bass voices.

(Historically "men's voices," properly "lower voices")

3rd Sunday of the month: All voices! Come "try it on" if you are interested in becoming involved in Parkway's quickly growing Music Ministry program!

4th Sunday: PUCC instrumentalists and/or small ensembles of singers.

Want to learn more? Contact aria@parkwayucc.org

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 **“Mark Twain, His Wit, His Words, and His Life,” by Bev Schuetz of History Talks.**

Sunday, June 28 | 11:15am

Learn the surprising story of America’s most beloved author while laughing at his wonderful observations on human nature. Follow this Missouri born writer’s great successes and personal happiness as well as his tragic personal and financial losses.

Our speaker, Bev Schuetz, is a popular and dynamic speaker who has created HISTORY TALKS, a series of live presentations. She is known for her unique topics, delightful presentations, and thoroughly researched programs. HISTORY TALKS combines her skills in public speaking, historical analysis, and creative writing. The results are lectures that reward and enrich those attending her presentations.

All programs are held in the Heritage Room following worship. Grab your coffee and a treat and come join us. Questions? Richard Scherrer at 90fivetpr@gmail.com

Pride Fest St. Louis Booth Volunteers ~ TODAY

Downtown St. Louis near Soldiers Memorial

Volunteers are needed to staff the ecumenical booth at this year's Pride Fest St. Louis the last weekend of June. Several Saturday and Sunday shifts are available by scanning or clicking the QR code. Participating faith communities include the UCC, Disciples of Christ, MCC of Greater St. Louis, Sts. Clare & Francis, the Episcopal Diocese, and First Unitarian Church of St. Louis.



Use the sign-up link through the QR code to register. Direct questions to lgbtfaithalliance@aol.com

Virtual Program: LGBTQ+ Inclusive Language

Monday, June 29 | 10am | Virtual

Presented by St. Louis Queer Support & Healing

Learn the language to discuss queer issues, identify best practices to support LGBTQIA+ loved ones and community members, and reconceptualize your own relationship to gender and identity.



Adults. Registration Required through QR code. Participants will receive Zoom information via email immediately after registering. A recording of this virtual program will be posted to YouTube within three business days.

Listening to Our Online Worshipers!

Mon, June 29 at 6pm | Weds, July 15 at 10am | Sunday, August 2 at 11:5am
Whether you worship with us online regularly or from time to time, we want to hear from you. Please join us for a Zoom conversation about your online worship experiences. We want to learn from you so we can better support and engage with you.

Please RSVP for one or more of these opportunities and we will send you the Zoom link and some of the questions that we hope will spark good sharing.

Questions? Speak with **kevin@parkwayucc.org**

Coffee and Conversation at Panera

Monday, June 29 | 7pm | Panera on Manchester Rd, Des Peres by 270
Join us for a beverage and sweet treat. Come connect! No need to RSVP - just show up! **Upcoming dates:**

Wed, July 15 at 2pm Fri, Aug 21 at 10am Mon, Sept 21 at 2pm
Questions? Contact **kevin@parkwayucc.org**; 314-872-9330

ADVOCACY ALERT

Support Missourians with Developmental Disabilities

Congratulations, advocates! Thanks to the hard work by hundreds and hundreds of people like you, the Missouri legislature understood how important it was to restore critical funding for people with developmental disabilities in the FY2027 budget! But the work is not finished. Governor Kehoe must still sign the restored funding into law. He has until **June 30** to approve the budget. We want to make sure he does just that.



If this is important to you and your family, **tell Gov. Kehoe to support funding for Missourians with developmental disabilities in the FY2027 state budget!** Please use **Starling's Action Center form** through the QR code to send your personalized message to Gov. Kehoe today.

ONA News June

We're in the final week of Pride month, and Parkway UCC has had a very busy June!

- Beautiful rainbow colors greeted visitors and congregants. Vandals couldn't stop us from showing Pride colors and letting the community know our church is fully open and affirming. Damaged sails were repaired/replaced, and our PFLAG friends who meet monthly at church made a financial donation to help those efforts.
 - On Father's Day, Pastor Kevin and several other PUCC men went to the Hi-Pointe Theater for a showing of "The Dads," a documentary about a group of fathers who built a movement to support their trans and gender-expansive children as hostilities continued to escalate in the United States.
 - Author/educator Ben Greene returned to PUCC on June 22 to present a program about joy-filled quest for LGBTQ+ rights, yesterday and today. Food was collected for the pantry at Metro Trans Umbrella Group.
 - The church hosted a multi-day training, the Missouri Trans Power Building Summit this week, wrapping up Saturday with a day of action as community leaders and volunteers from across the state came together to build power. The ACLU, PROMO Missouri, and other organizations received a lavish welcome by PUCC.
 - A few PUCcers including Sally Dodge, Deb Reinhardt, Greg Schmelig and Kevin Cameron volunteered at Pride Fest downtown in an ecumenical booth. The UCC, as well as the Episcopal Diocese, Disciples of Christ, Ecumenical Catholic Communion, Unitarian Universalists, and Metropolitan Community Church came together to show hundreds of folks God's unconditional love.
 - The LGBTQ+ Faith Alliance also delivered a dozen Happy Pride goody bags to trans and gender-expansive kids through TransParent's local chapter.
- All of this is in addition to the other activities, classes and events that happen at our church!

Of course, our ONA work continues. If you're interested to learn more or to serve on PUCC's ONA Team, contact Deb Reinhardt. PFLAG meetings are wonderful for allies, family members, and LGBTQ+ people. In our greater St. Louis area, reach out to LGBTQ+ organizations such as Metro Trans Umbrella Group, PROMO Missouri, Doorways, St. Louis Anti Violence Project — to name a few — because volunteers always are needed. Share with these organizations your abilities and schedule and they'll find something for you to do! It's vital that our queer siblings know there are Christians here who know how to love louder than hateful messages so often heard. Be the active, love-filled voice that's needed.

To know more how to be involved in ONA, contact Deb Reinhardt
deborahreinhardt@att.net

Adventurous Men Out Early

AMOE meets this **Thursday, July 2** for fellowship and coffee in the Heritage Room at 9:15 AM. All are welcome. Questions, please see Richard Scherrer
90fivetpr@gmail.com

Information Session

Missouri Amendments in August and November

Sunday, July 5 | 11:15am-12:30pm | Heritage Room

The ballot for the upcoming August and November elections will contain several proposed amendments to the Missouri Constitution that will have a major and long-lasting impact on our state.

Aside from the info session happening at Congregation Shaare Emeth in June, Michelle Singer is hosting an event after worship to help us also understand the effects of a yes or no vote on these important ballot measures. Gain the knowledge you need to make an informed decision on these amendments BEFORE you enter the voting booth. For more info, contact Michelle Singer mrsinger71@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE Habitat for Humanity Workdays



On both of Parkway's UCC Habitat workdays, **July 11** and **August 1**, continue Parkway UCC's hands on support of 40 years of Habitat since our members were heavily involved in bringing it to St. Louis. Click or scan QR to register. You can also use this link: <https://tinyurl.com/3e4c6j5d>.

For more info, reach out to Tom McKenzie at mckenzie1947@att.net

Youth Mission Trip 2026 STL Experience

God is still speaking! We are planning on doing a Saint Louis mission trip from **Sunday, July 19** after worship service until **Thursday, July 23**. Doing the mission trip here will allow for more flexibility between ourselves and your families. We'd love to have your youth for all of it, or even some of the service projects. We'll have a variety of projects ranging from beautifying the church to helping the greater Saint Louis community, topping things off with a St. Louis Riverfront Cruise! For more info, or if you'd like to help during this, please reach out to Gabriel Requadt gabriel@parkwayucc.org

Prayer Corner an opportunity to pray with someone

Friday, July 31 | 1-3pm | 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, Aug 31 from 7-9pm

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

TED on Summer Break ~ See You in August!

TED is now on Summer Break. It's a good time to pick a fun summer read then join us when we resume in August and we can share our cool book adventures.

We will start up again on **August 11** and will resume our usual schedule of meeting in the Heritage Room on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month at 6pm for Potluck Supper followed by 7pm book discussion. We meet in person and also have Zoom available at each meeting.

Have a fun summer and we'll see you in August!

For questions contact Helen Race at raceh@att.net

TAD is Taking a Break

Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue is taking a break until sometime in August.

We'll resume meeting in August, and we will discuss books we've read over the break and will choose our next books then. For more info, contact Jackie Eiffert jeiffert2@gmail.com

VBS ~ Vacation Bible Summer Overview

Jesus calls us to "love your neighbor as yourself," and Leviticus 19:34 extends that command: "You shall love the immigrant as yourself."

This VBS explores God's call to welcome and care for immigrants and strangers. Migration is woven throughout Scripture. Abram and Sarai journeyed to a new land, Ruth left Moab and joined God's people, and even Jesus was a refugee when his family fled Herod's violence. These stories remind us that God is present with people on the move. Today, people continue to immigrate in search of safety and hope. Jesus teaches that when we welcome the stranger, we welcome him. Through service and justice, we live out God's love in the world. Every two weeks, our Sunday School will explore a new lesson through crafts, games, science, music, and more, culminating in a youth-led worship service on **August 30**.

We hope your children will find joy, meaning, and spiritual growth this summer at Parkway UCC!

WISE Team Inquiry: A United Church of Christ Ministry

Our church is looking at the possibility of becoming a WISE church as set forth by our UCC (WISE = Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, Engaged)

We are at the start of this journey and are hopeful it will be a blessed one.

If you are interested in being considered for the WISE Team that would play a formative role in this exploration and study, please scan or click the QR code.



We will have our initial meeting in July.

Thank you!

Questions? Please contact kevin@parkwayucc.org

Prayer List

Wednesday, June 24, 2026

Celebrations

LGBTQ+ Pride Month!

Gabriel Requadt - 'ordainable pending call'; searching for a church.

Concerns

Grant Doty & Owens family - grieving/giving thanks for his mother.

<https://www.duluthnewstribune.com/obituaries/obits/diane-doty-gsrocxwwcbjd87lo6bei>

Bill & Gail, Christopher Haack - Bill home after hospitalization!

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 May '25 tornado

Uganda and The Congo *in a time of Ebola.*

US military and their families - including our own **Sera Watkins** and **Anthony Williams**, deployed to the Mideast now.

Continuing

Karla Beck and family - mourning and remembering her brother.

Alex Wiseman - living with autoimmune challenges.

Lori Connors - ongoing health concerns and challenges.

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

Vicki Boehmer - healing after heart surgery last week (McMillon).

Jennifer - upcoming cancer surgery then treatments (Lowenthal).

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

Jonathan - healing after head trauma during mission in Iran (Beck).

Bob & Jan - health, wholeness, peace, joy (Laura Waite's grandparents).

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

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

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 & Amy, daughter B - loving one another thru his cancer journey.

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).

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.

All lawfully present non-permanent refugees who were legally resettled in the US prior to January 2025 who have lost their SNAP food benefits (May 1) and will lose their Medicaid benefits (October 1). They will also lose eligibility for ACA Marketplace subsidies (January 2027) because their Green Card applications have been paused (Livengood).

Home-Centered/Care Facility/Rehab Center

Lewis Junior Burcham - *The Glenwood*; 1635 N. Baltimore Ave #25; Mt. Zion, IL 62549; 217-864-1757 [birthday: January 15]

John Nourse *The Village at Cape Albeon*; 3300 Lake Bend Dr, #166; Valley Park, MO 63088 [birthdate: October 26]

Pat Owens - *Mason Pointe* - 13190 South Outer Forty Rd, #2303; Town and Country, MO 63017; 314-323-7194 [birthdate: February 18]

Ruth Peace - 10379-D Forest Brooke Ln; StL MO 63146; 314-983-025 meadletter222@gmail.com [birthdate: August 8]

Naomi Runtz - 272 N Lindbergh Blvd; StL MO 63141; 314-993-0469 naomiruntz@sbcglobal.net [birthdate: August 30]

Gladys Sims - *Friendship Village* - 15200 Village View Dr, #2418; Chesterfield, MO 63017; 636-898-8873 [birthdate: July 4]

Ellie Svenson - *Mason Pointe* - 13190 South Outer Forty Rd, #2213; Town and Country, MO 63017; 314-323-7194 [birthdate: June 19]

Judy Waddell - 13510 Weston Park Dr; STL, MO 63131; 314-369-4885 [birthdate: August 13]

Other

Pres Trump, VP Vance, Congress, all local, national, world leaders.

Our trans siblings as they deal with harmful state/federal policy plans.

All who depend on USAID programs that have been eliminated.

The “me too” Movement - shining a light on sexual abuse.

All people who live with mental illness & those dealing with meds.

Caregivers of all shapes and sizes.

PUCC Family struggling with employment; healthcare costs and limits.

Our Missouri Mid-South Conference and St Louis Assn UCC

Gun violence and other violence across the US and other lands.

Conversations about the Death Penalty in the United States.

Victims of Natural and Created Disasters around the world.

Healing of relationships between the public and the police.

Peace and Justice near and far.

US Military around the globe.

Prayer Chaplain Ministry here at Parkway UCC.

A Third Testament

Molly Baskette

Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. Do not add to his words, lest he rebuke you, and you be found a liar. - Proverbs 30:5-6 (NRSV)

Bishop Yvette Flunder, founding pastor of City of Refuge UCC and The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries, is taking heat from all manner of preachers.

The reason? Her recent assertion that the Bible needs a third testament. They call her a heretic for wanting to add to the complete, inerrant word of God.

But Bishop says, “We need a third testament because the Bible has become problematic. ‘Slaves obey your masters.’ ‘Let the women keep silent in churches.’ We need to pull those pages out! People say, ‘But that’s the word of God!’ No. It’s not the word of God. I spoke to God this morning. Those are words about God.”

And some of those words, she continues, are words that diminish women, people of color, Creation, and so much more that we know God holds dear. They are words that for the umpteenth time are being weaponized by divine ventriloquists who use scripture to justify dastardly deeds and the reckless march to war.

The fact is, Proverbs is not 100% accurate. God may be “a shield to those who take refuge in him,” but God is also a deadly weapon in the wrong hands as well as the refuge of scoundrels. And those lies Proverbs speaks of? Some of them got sealed inside the Book.

Nearly 1,600 years have passed since men debated what texts belonged in the so-called New Testament. And 2,200 years since the canon of Hebrew scriptures closed. God has kept speaking all this time since those debaters shut the book on the Bible and declared it complete. Mightn’t She want new words enshrined?

Let’s wrestle, and opine, and debate our way to fresh holy wisdom worthy of binding. Let’s task thousands with writing that third testament, because the Holy Spirit refines truth best through a multitude of imaginations and lived experiences.

Time will test whether these words are good and true.

Prayer

God, keep speaking. We have pen in hand. Amen.

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

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

