





www.parkwayucc.org

June 7, 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

2841 North Ballas Road | St. Louis, MO 63131 | 314-872-9330 [p] | 314-872-9014 [f]
parkwayucc.org | contact@parkwayucc.org

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

Kevin Cameron, *Pastor; Building and Scheduling* [kevin@parkwayucc.org]

Gabriel Requadt, *Christian Education & Admin Support; Licensed Minister* [gabriel@parkwayucc.org]

Amy Freeman, *Organist* [amy@parkwayucc.org]

Aria Thome, *Music Director* [aria@parkwayucc.org]

Amy Yakel, *Treasurer* [treasurer@parkwayucc.org]

Dawn Friedmann, *Bookkeeper* [dawn@parkwayucc.org]

Katie Hertfelder & Lakita Wofford-Bates, *Nursery* [gabriel@parkwayucc.org]

Kim Livengood, *Church Historian* [historian@parkwayucc.org]

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

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

Deb Reinhardt, *LGBTQ+ Faith Alliance* [lgbtfaithalliance@aol.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 Greg Schmelig.

Flowers given by a generous PUCCer.

Treats provided by Sue & Nick McMillon.

Our Prayer Chaplain this morning is Lynn Mark.



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

6/7 Sally Dischinger

6/7 Paul Stohr

6/8 Shelley Stein

6/9 Ross Livengood

Anniversaries

6/10 Ashley & James Milam

6/11 Kelly & Scott Biest

2nd Sunday *after* Pentecost

Sunday, June 7, 2026 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & YouTube Live

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

Prelude *The Road Home* by Stephen Paulus (transcribed)

Welcome Let us know you are here!

Meditation There is something particularly fascinating about seeing places you know in a piece of art — be that in a film, or a photograph, or a painting.
~Sara Sheridan

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*

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 Matthew 9:9–13, 18–26 | Common English Bible

As Jesus continued on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at a kiosk for collecting taxes. He said to him, “Follow me,” and he got up and followed him. As Jesus sat down to eat in Matthew’s house, many tax collectors and sinners joined Jesus and his disciples at the table.

But when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

When Jesus heard it, he said, “Healthy people don’t need a doctor, but sick people do. Go and learn what this means: *I want mercy and not sacrifice.* I didn’t come to call righteous people, but sinners.”

*Call to Worship

One: We gather in a changing world, seeking steady hope.

Many: We come trusting that Love still leads the way.

One: We do not always see the whole map before us.

Many: Yet we trust that the Spirit moves ahead of us, opening paths we could not imagine.

One: We are called not only to dream, but to act –

Many: To listen deeply, move faithfully, and respond courageously.

One: God invites us to discover our purpose together.

Many: To shape plans rooted in compassion and justice.

One: To live with intention, curiosity, and courage.

Many: We gather to follow where God is leading, step by step.

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

*Song *The God of Abraham Praise* | #488 Red Hymnal



1. The God of A-braham praise, Who reigns en-throned a - bove;
2. Your spir - it still flows free, High surg - ing where it will;
3. You have e - ter - nal life Im - plant - ed in the soul;



The an - cient of e - ter - nal days, The God of love!
In proph-et's word You spoke of old And You speak still.
Your love shall be our strength and stay, While a - ges roll.



The Lord, the great I Am, By earth and heaven con - fessed,
Es - tab - lished is Your law, And change-less it shall stand,
We praise You, liv - ing God! We praise Your ho - ly name;



We bow be - fore Your ho - ly name, For - ev - er blest.
Deep writ up - on the hu - man heart, On sea, or land.
The first, the last, be - yond all thought, And still the same!

*Opening Prayer

Holy One, in a world that changes quickly, You call us not to fear movement, but to trust Your presence within it. When the road ahead feels uncertain and the map incomplete, remind us that faith has never meant having every answer - it has meant stepping forward with courage, compassion, and hope. Help us listen for our shared purpose. Give us wisdom to discern what matters most, imagination to dream new possibilities, and humility to change course when needed. Shape us into a community that is thoughtful and brave, strategic and compassionate, grounded in love while open to surprise, compromise and collaboration. As we worship, renew our trust that You are still making a way forward, inviting us to walk together into what can yet be. 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 from age 3 to 5th grade will go to Room 12, 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 will come back up with their teachers for Communion with all of us.

Blessing the Children *Jesus Loves Me*

Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so;

Little ones to him belong, they are weak but he is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me still today, walking with me on my way,

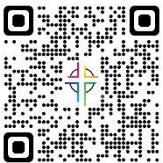
Wanting as a friend to give, life and love to all who live.

Yes, Jesus loves me...

Sharing our Values in the Public Square *Offering of Letters*

Bread for the World ~ bread.org

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

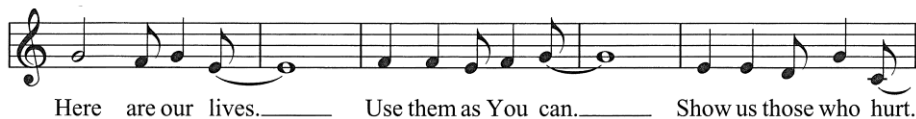
Offering Interlude *Prayer of Trust* - words by Thomas Merton (1915-1968) music by Aria Thomé (b.1983), sung by Olivia Rhodes, coloratura

My Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you
does in fact please you.
And I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this, you will lead me by the right road,
though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore, will I trust you always though
I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

***Response** *Here Are Our Hearts* (please sing twice)



Here are our hearts._____ Here are our hands._____



Here are our lives._____ Use them as You can._____ Show us those who hurt.



_____ Show us those in need._____ Show us how to serve.



_____ Teach us how to see._____

***Prayer of Dedication**

Generous Spirit, we offer these gifts with grateful hearts, knowing that resources are not meant to stand still, but to become love in motion. Use what we have shared - and who we ourselves are - to deepen purpose, nourish community, and build a future rooted in justice, compassion, and belonging. Help us move faithfully in changing times, responding not with fear, but with courage and care. May what we offer today become part of the path unfolding before us. Amen.

Scripture Genesis 12:1–9 | New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition
Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your parent’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

So, Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother’s son Lot and all the possessions that they had gathered - and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran, and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east, and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord. And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

Moment of Silent Reflection

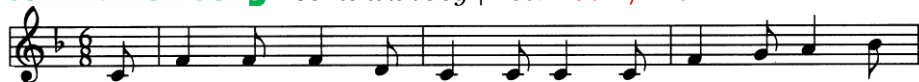
Sermon *Following God's Map*

Rev Phil Hodson, Interim Conference Minister
Missouri Mid-South Conference of our United Church of Christ

Invitation to the Communion Table We invite *all* to this **open table**.

All accepted—no exceptions—as we commit ourselves to limitless love, courageous action and spirited inquiry.

Communion Song *I Come with Joy* | #507 Red Hymnal



1. I come with joy to meet my Lord, For - giv - en, loved, and
2. I come with Chris - tians far and near To find, as all are
3. As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, Each proud di - vi - sion
4. And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His pres - ence, al - ways
5. To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, We'll go our dif - ferent



free, In awe and won - der to re - call His
fed, The new com - mu - ni - ty of love In
ends, The love that made us, makes us one, And
near, Is in such friend - ship bet - ter known: We
ways, And as His peo - ple in the world, We'll



life laid down for me, His life laid down for me.
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, In Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
stran - gers now are friends, And stran - gers now are friends.
see and praise Him here, We see and praise Him here.
live and speak His praise, We'll live and speak His praise.

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.]

*Breaking Bread & Pouring Wine/Juice

Please come forward in the center aisle to receive the bread and wine. All are welcome! Gluten-free wafers are on the communion table. Grape juice is in the outer ring; wine is in the center circles. Please return by the side aisles.

Communion Interlude *Panis Angelicus* - Cesar Franck, 1822-1890

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy One, at this table we remember that journeys of faith are not traveled alone. We are fed by grace, strengthened by community, and reminded that even when we cannot see the whole road, we are accompanied by Love. As we leave this meal, guide us into faithful action. Clarify our purpose, steady our steps, and help us trust the next right movement when certainty feels distant. Teach us to listen for where life is emerging, to follow where justice calls, and to walk together with open hearts. May this shared bread and cup strengthen us for the work ahead, trusting that your Spirit leads us into new possibilities. Amen.

*Song of Parting *In the Midst of New Dimensions* | #2238 *Blue Songbook*



1 In the midst of new di - men - sions, in the face of chang - ing ways,
2 Through the flood of starv - ing peo - ple, war - ring fac - tions and de - spair,
3 As we stand a world di - vid - ed by our own self - seek - ing schemes,
4 We are one and we are man - y all per - sua - sions, old and young,
5 Should the threats of dire pre - dic - tions cause us to with - draw in pain,



Who will lead the pil - grim peo - ples wan - dering in their sep - arate ways?
Who will lift the ol - ive branch - es? Who will light the flame of care?
Grant that we, your glob - al vil - lage, might en - vi - sion wid - er dreams.
Each a gift in your cre - a - tion, each a love song to be sung.
May your blaz - ing phoe - nix spir - it res - ur - rect the church a - gain.

Refrain



God of rain - bow, fier - y pil - lar, lead - ing where the ea - gles soar, We your



peo - ple, ours the jour - ney now and ev - er, now and ev - er, now and ev - er - more.

*Benediction

God's Light Goes Forth

Annual Congregational Meeting: Leadership

Special Welcome to Phil Hodson today!

Rev. Phil Hodson is our Interim Conference Minister in our Missouri Mid-South Conference of our United Church of Christ as of this week!

Phil is husband to Joelle and father to 4 incredible, energetic boys. Phil graduated from Purdue University with a degree in Sales Management and from Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology with a Master of Divinity.

Phil has worked in both church planting and revitalization throughout his ministry, working with congregations in financial oversight, administrative reorganization, building campaigns, and community engagement. Most recently, he has served as Conference Minister in the South Central and Pacific Northwest Conferences of the United Church of Christ.

Phil is passionate about church growth, made possible by sharing our values in the public square. He is convinced that the gospel is truly good news for all people and that the United Church of Christ is uniquely suited to offer extravagant welcome and creative engagement in the repair of the world in each new generation. Working together with the movement of the Spirit, we can be part of the promise of a “future filled with hope.”

Make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord!

First three Sundays of June, July, and August - come at 9 am to practice, sing in the 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 ensemble 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

Tuesday Evening Dialogue

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

Please join us on **June 9** for our second session on our next book, *Lab Girl* by Hope Jahren. This book is a 2016 memoir by geobiologist Hope Jahren, blending her personal story with the science of plants, trees and soil, and exploring her career, her friendship with her lab partner Bill Hagopian and her struggles with bipolar disorder. This book is celebrated for its unique combination of scientific insight, candid personal narrative and for winning the National Book Critics Circle Award and becoming a best seller. We will be covering Part Two “Wood and Knots” on **June 9**.

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.

LGBTQ+ Faith Alliance Quilt Raffle

You could win this beautiful handcrafted yo-yo quilt!

Donated by Sally Dodge through Karla Beck to be raffled in support of the LGBTQ+ Faith Alliance, this quilt is believed to date from the 1930s. It contains more than 1,000 hand-sewn fabric circles and is currently in two pieces. Together, the pieces would easily cover a king-size bed.

Cleaning instructions will be provided.

Proceeds benefit the LGBTQ+ Faith Alliance.

Drawing Date: June 11

Ticket Price: \$5.00

Get your ticket now through the raffle QR code or from an LGBTQ+ Faith Alliance representative by contacting Deb Reinhardt

deborahreinhardt@att.net



Every Child's Hope: Hope Rising Black & White Gala

Saturday, June 13 | 5pm | Ameristar Casino, St. Charles



You are cordially invited to an uplifting evening that celebrates the hope ECH brings to every child, the healing we offer to every family, every day. Scan or click QR code to register! For more info, contact Ashley Milam aviehmam@gmail.com

Speaker Series Occasional opportunities after worship at 11:15am

"An Extraordinary Career as a Ranger, Green Beret, and Delta Force," by Lt. Col. Mike Maloney.

June 14 | 11:15am

Lt. Col. Mike Malony (ret.), born and raised in St. Louis, is the grandson of Jerry and Priscilla Debandt. Mike served in the Army Rangers, the Green Berets, and Delta Force; a rare trifecta of elite unit service few obtain. His last assignment was in Delta Force, which is comprised of the best personnel recruited from experienced soldiers in the Green Berets and the Rangers. Mike will recount his adventures in each unit, the rigorous training and selection process, their respective missions, and the leadership skills he learned throughout his extraordinary career. It is notable that June 14th is the birthday of the U.S. Army.

"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 pastry and come join us. Questions? Richard Scherrer at 90fivetpr@gmail.com

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 *The Henna Artist* by Alka Joshi.

We'd love to have you! *The Henna Artist* is a tale of perseverance, history, self-worth, and forgiveness, highlighting the power of family. A young woman named Lakshmi makes her way from her 1950s rural village to the pink city of Jaipur, and becomes the henna artist in a society pivoting between the traditional and the modern. On **June 16**, we'll finish the book, discussing chapters 15 through the end.

Fellowship starts at 1:45pm, and book discussion is from 2-3pm. For more info, please contact Jackie Eiffert at jeiffert2@gmail.com

Prayer Corner an opportunity to pray with someone

Wednesday, June 17 | 9-11am | 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:

Friday, July 31 from 1-3pm

Monday, Aug 31 from 7-9pm Friday, Sept 25 from 6:30-8:30am

Saturday, Oct 10 from 8-10am Tuesday, Nov 17 from 3-5pm

Monday, Dec 14 from 7-9pm Wednesday, Jan 13 from 10am-12pm

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

World Refugee Day Meet our Performers!

Join the *International Institute of St. Louis* for a free, family-friendly celebration in honor of *World Refugee Day* as they come together to celebrate the cultures, traditions, and contributions that help make our region stronger.

This year's event will feature live performances from three incredible groups representing cultures and traditions from around the world:

Prince Antony

Angy Gonzalez

Esteban Tonio and Emmerson Magaña

In addition to live entertainment, attendees can enjoy games, community activities, and food from three local food trucks, which will be unveiled soon.

World Refugee Day is an opportunity to celebrate resilience, community, and the many ways refugees and immigrants enrich the St. Louis region. For more info, visit <https://www.iistl.org/>

Keep Dancing Joy in the Fight for Queer Rights

Monday, June 22 | 7pm | Parkway UCC

Come for an evening of hope, history, and action. This presentation will journey through LGBTQ+ history and the changemakers of the present day to remind us that no matter how dark things may feel, the fight is far from over.

We know how to survive this: together. *A family-friendly Pride event!*

Following the program, enjoy an ice cream reception and resource fair.

Presenter: Ben Greene

Please bring canned goods (meats, beans, vegetables, soups, or peanut butter) or shelf-stable milk for Metro Trans Umbrella Group's food pantry. More information is available at stlmetrotrans.org/resources/food-pantry.

Presented by the LGBTQ+ Faith Alliance, PFLAG of Greater St. Louis, and Parkway United Church of Christ. For more info, contact Kevin Cameron

kevin@parkwayucc.org

ALS Walk 2026 - Loving the Penicos and Eifferts

Saturday, June 27 | 10am | Forest Park

Too many of us have been touched by the tragedy of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS. Join us to raise awareness and funds for ALS research and patient/family support at this walk honoring those impacted by ALS. The event is full of community spirit and hope.

Register now to join the ALS Walk by scanning or clicking the QR code. Choose "join a team" and search for **PUCC Loving the Penicos and Eifferts**. On June 27, check in begins at 8:30am; walk begins at 10am. **NOTE:** Children of all ages can participate in the walk. For more info, contact Lisa Mason lmason624@sbcglobal.net



Pride Fest St. Louis Booth Volunteers ~ Sat/Sun June 27 and 28

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

Intertwine Interfaith Coffee House Event Join an uplifting evening of music & entertainment

Saturday, June 27 | 7-9pm | TASOM Community Center - 9201 Watson Road

The Intertwine Interfaith Coffee House event has become a favorite opportunity to share the music and poetry that are meaningful to our communities. This year, join us at TASOM's new community center for coffee, tea, halal/kosher treats, and celebrating the ways art brings us together. Please share YOUR talent with the group! The RSVP form includes space to register to perform and/or bring a snack. Sign up through the QR code! For more info, contact Lisa Mason

lmason624@sbcglobal.net



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.

Abortion Access Missouri - St. Louis County Base Meeting

Wednesday, June 10 | 6-7:30pm | Parkway United Church of Christ
We've done it before and together we will do it again! This month, the St. Louis County Base is spreading the word about VOTING NO ON 3 to keep abortion legal! Join us as we sharpen our skills for knocking on doors and talking to our neighbors at public events, boost our recruitment efforts, and mobilize locally to stop another abortion ban. Questions? Lisa Williams
lisa@abortionactionmissouri.org

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

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.

Thank you!

Questions? Please contact kevin@parkwayucc.org



Prayer List

Wednesday, June 3, 2026

Celebrations

Dr. Emma Ross - DVM graduated from Mizzou CVM on May 15 and began her veterinary career at *Arch Animal Hospital* this week!

Successful JHLTB last Sunday.

Phil Hodson - our Interim Conference Minister of our Missouri Mid-South Conference of our UCC since 06/01 ... at PUCG this Sunday!

Gabriel Requadt - getting closer to his Ordination Interview on 6/11.

LGBTQ+ Pride Month!

Concerns

Joe and Lana Biondo - home after his surprise surgeries last week.

Lori Connors - broken nose, bruises/cuts from fall in a parking lot.

Kris McKenzie - good results from her surgery; waiting for next steps.

Herb and Ruth Huebner - after his fall and multiple fractures in arm.

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

Jennifer - upcoming cancer surgery then treatments (Lowenthal).

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.

Continuing

Alex Wiseman - living with autoimmune challenges.

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).

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.

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).

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

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

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.

PUCG 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.

Groping for God

Vicki Kemper

[Paul said,] “God made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth ... so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for God and find God—though indeed God is not far from each one of us. For ‘In God we live and move and have our being.’” - Acts 17:26-28 (NRSVUE, adapted)

Who among us has not spent frantic minutes (or hours) looking for our glasses or our keys or our phone—only to discover that they were on our head or in our hand the entire time?

The apostle Paul says our search for God is like that. While we’re tearing the house apart looking for what we already have, while we’re searching for meaning as if it’s not right in front of us, the Holy One is forever lighting flares and sending us love notes, just waiting for us to notice.

God has given rise to every good thing—babies and bald eagles, bird song and gospel music, lovers and friends, asparagus and tomatoes, community and diversity, solidarity and resistance, a capacity for healing, soup kitchens and hugs and so much more—just so we can experience, enjoy, and maybe even know capital-L Love.

The good news is that God wants to be found by us—and that her heart aches for us even as we litter our lives with all that is not God.

We are too often like fish, swimming in an ocean of God’s love and not even realizing it. Perhaps we could stop our anxious paddling and roll over and just float for a while, enjoying the view.

Prayer

God who is love, may we never stop groping for you. And even when we find you, may we never consider our search complete.

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

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



Vacation Bible Summer Overview

When an immigrant resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress them. The immigrant who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the immigrant as yourself, for you were immigrants in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.
~Leviticus 19:33-34, adapted

God's expectations for us regarding how we are to treat everyone we encounter is clear from Jesus' statement of the greatest commandments: to love our neighbors as ourselves. Jesus also made it clear that our neighbor includes people we do not like or feel comfortable around. Jesus pulled this from Leviticus 19:18. What is less well known is that only 16 verses later, God used a parallel construction: "You shall love the immigrant as yourself" (Leviticus 19:34) This is the basis for this unit's Lesson 1 (Love Immigrants). The reasoning given for this is based on empathy—the Israelites had been immigrants in Egypt and were oppressed. They should not do that to others.

In fact, immigration was a key factor in the grand story of our faith. Where would we be if Sarai and Abram had not followed God through the Promised Land (Lesson 2)? Their grandson (Jacob) and his family were forced to move to Egypt due to famine, and God led their descendants to that Promised Land as they escaped Egyptian enslavement (Lesson 3). Naomi and her family escaped famine by immigrating to Moab, and her daughter-in-law Ruth immigrated to Bethlehem with Naomi, allowing her to become part of King David's family tree (Lesson 4). Foreign empires forced the Israelites to immigrate to exile before they were able to return to their land. Even our Messiah became a refugee with his family when he was young as they fled the jealous wrath of King Herod (Lesson 5).

Throughout history, individuals, families, and whole groups of people have immigrated to find better and safer lives. God's call and command remain relevant: love the immigrant as yourself. In fact, Jesus teaches us in Matthew 25:35 that how we treat an immigrant (stranger) is how we treat our Lord himself. Love in action—service and justice—is how we live out our faith in response to God's unconditional love for us.

While this is a serious topic, we can have fun while learning together! And we can rejoice in the knowledge that wherever we go, God always travels with us. Thanks be to God!

As a note: Every two weeks, our Sunday School will be covering a different lesson, filled with a plethora of activities from science and crafts to games and music, capping off with a youth-led worship service, **August 30**. We hope your children will be able to find meaning and value in this Spirit-filled summer here at Parkway UCC!