





www.parkwayucc.org

July 19, 2026

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Limitless Love | Courageous Action | Spirited Inquiry

Purpose Statement

Parkway United Church of Christ strives to be an inclusive community embracing: spiritual nourishment, open-minded inquiry, courageous action, and interfaith partnerships to fulfill God's calling to create a just world for all.

Congregational Statement

Parkway United Church of Christ, with God's grace, seeks to be a congregation that includes all persons, regardless of race, ethnic, or socio—economic background while respecting differences of gender, marital status, age, sexual orientation, and mental and physical ability. We aspire to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God. We invite all to share in the life and leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities and blessings of participation in our open and affirming congregation.

PARKWAY UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

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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 Jackie Eiffert.

Flowers given by Ingrid Scharf in celebration of Catilin's 20th birthday!

Treats provided by Ingrid Scharf.

Our Prayer Chaplain this morning is Kari Borgmann.



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

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

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Mental Health Support

988 (new nationwide 3-digit number similar to 911... call or text)
24/7 Crisis Hotline 800-273-8255 (TALK) | 800-SUICIDE: 800-784-2433
24/7 Missouri Department of Mental Health 800-811-4760
Text 741741 and someone will text right back...www.crisistextline.org
Behavioral Health Network of Greater St Louis 314-449-6713
The numbers below are called Warmlines (not Hotlines).
They are peer run by people with lived experience.
Not all of them are 24/7/365
Teen Warm Line: 1 800-248-8336
Black Warm Line: 1-800-604-5841 (They are divested from the police)
Trans Warm Line: 1-877-565-8860
Project Return Warm Line: 1-800-448-9777 (run away)
Learn more about warm lines: <https://warmline.org/warmdir.html>

Birthdays

7/17 Cindy Wessell
7/21 Judy McLachlin
7/23 Kelly Biest
7/25 Caitlin Scharf
7/25 Jill Schatz

Anniversaries

7/22 Brian & Sheila Waddell
7/25 Doug & Sally Dischinger

8th Sunday *after* Pentecost

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

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

Prelude *The Solid Rock*

(*My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less Than Jesus' Love*). Piano arrangement.

Welcome Let us know you are here!

Meditation There will always be rocks in the road ahead of us. They will be stumbling blocks or stepping stones; it all depends on how you use them.

~Friedrich Nietzsche

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 *Sanctuary* | #2164 [Blue Songbook](#)



Lord, pre- pare me to be a sanc- tu - ar - y, pure and
Lord, pre- pare me to be your lov - ing e - cho, kind and
ho - ly, tried and true. With thanks- giv - ing, I'll be a
gen - tle, tried and true. With thanks- giv - ing, I'll be a
liv - ing sanc- tu - ar - y for you.
liv - ing sanc- tu - ar - y for you.

Scripture Genesis 28:10-19 | Common English Bible

Jacob left Beer-sheba and set out for Haran. He reached a certain place and spent the night there. When the sun had set, he took one of the stones at that place and put it near his head. Then he lay down there. He dreamed and saw a raised staircase, its foundation on earth and its top touching the sky, and God's messengers were ascending and descending on it. Suddenly the Lord was standing on it and saying, "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will become like the dust of the earth; you will spread out to the west, east, north, and south. Every family of earth will be blessed because of you and your descendants. I am with you now, I will protect you everywhere you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done everything that I have promised you."

When Jacob woke from his sleep, he thought to himself, The Lord is definitely in this place, but I didn't know it. He was terrified and thought, This sacred place is awesome. It's none other than God's house and the entrance to heaven. After Jacob got up early in the morning, he took the stone that he had put near his head, set it up as a sacred pillar, and poured oil on the top of it. He named that sacred place Bethel, though Luz was the city's original name.

*Call to Worship

One: We come seeking God in this place.

Many: We come with open hearts, ready to be surprised.

One: Jacob discovered that ordinary ground can become holy ground.

Many: We, too, awaken to the sacred in unexpected places.

One: God's presence is not confined to temples or sanctuaries.

Many: Wherever love is shared, justice is pursued, and hope is born, God is there.

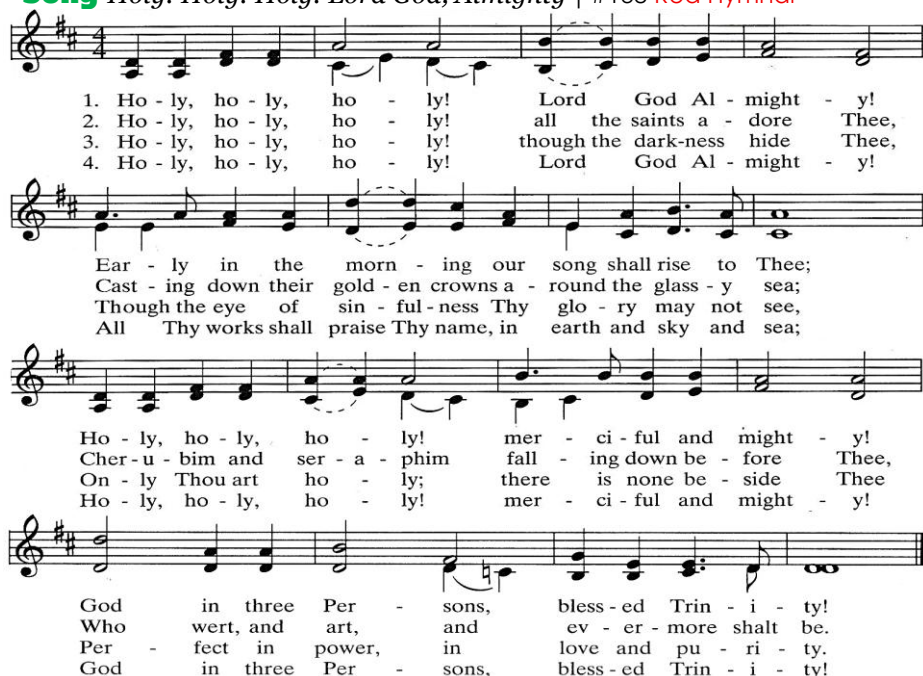
One: The Holy One invites us to dream beyond what is and to trust what can be.

Many: We gather to listen, to wonder, and to be transformed.

One: Come, for surely God is in this place.

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

*Song *Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord God, Almighty* | #138 Red Hymnal



1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
 2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! all the saints a - dore Thee,
 3. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark-ness hide Thee,
 4. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to Thee;
 Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 Though the eye of sin - ful-ness Thy glo - ry may not see,
 All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth and sky and sea;

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y!
 Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore Thee,
 On - ly Thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side Thee
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 Who wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
 Per - fect in power, in love and pu - ri - ty.
 God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

***Opening Prayer**

Holy One, we come into Your presence with grateful hearts, offering our appreciation and opening ourselves to Your Spirit. Meet us in this time of worship. Quiet our distractions, awaken our compassion, and renew our hope. Help us to listen for Your wisdom, to grow in Your love, and to leave this place ready to serve with courage, generosity, and joy. May all that we sing, pray, hear, and share bring honor to You and blessing to our world. 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.

Commissioning of Youth Mission Week

Our middle schoolers and high schoolers will engage in a variety of service projects, learning experiences, and activities together this week including: Habitat for Humanity; World Cup Final Party; Unleashing Potential; Powder Valley Nature Center; Humane Society; movie and discussion; Lone Elk Park; PUCC chores; Missouri School for the Blind; Ronald McDonald House; Isaiah 58 Ministries; STL Riverfront Cruise

Blessing the Children *God You Are Our God*

**God, you are our God, and we will ever praise you
God, you are our God, and we will ever praise you
We will seek you in the morning
And learn to walk in your ways
Step by step you lead us, and we will
Follow you all of our days...**

Sacrament of Baptism

Invitation, Questions and Promises

Child: Miley Suzanne Schulenburg

Parents: Kaylyn and David Schulenburg

Godparents: Cassie Schulenburg and Cody Fogle

Congregation

One: Jesus Christ calls us to offer the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support and care to Miley and to Kaylyn & David, Mia and Miles - as they all live and grow in Christ?

All: We promise our love, support, and care!

Act of Baptism and Baptismal Prayer

The Right Hand of Fellowship

Gifts from the Church

Response *I Was There to Hear Your Born-ing Cry* | #2051 [Blue Songbook](#)



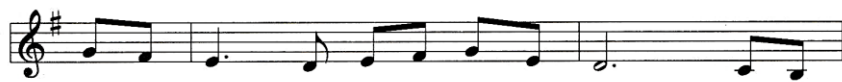
1. I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be
3. When you heard the won - der of the Word, I was
5. In the mid - dle ag - es of your life, not too
7. I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be



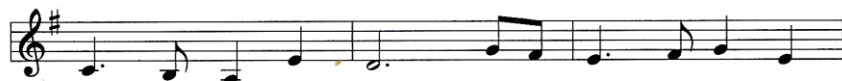
there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you
there to cheer you on. You were raised to praise the
old, no long - er young, I'll be there to guide you
there when you are old, I re - joiced the day you



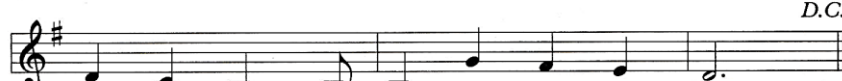
were bap - tized to see your life un - fold.
liv - ing Lord to whom you now be - long.
through the night, com - plete what I've be - gun.
were bap - tized to see your life un - fold.



2. I was there when you were but a child with a
4. If you find some-one to share your time and you
6. When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you



faith to suit you well; in a blaze of light you
join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your
shut your wea - ry eyes, I'll be there as I have



wan - dered off to find where de - mons dwell.
vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun.
al - ways been with just one more sur - prise.

Scripture Psalm 139:1-12 | New Revised Standard Version, Updated

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.

You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue,

O Lord, you know it completely.

You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit?

Or where can I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there;

if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

If I take the wings of the morning

and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me,

and your right hand shall hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and night wraps itself around me,"^[a]

even the darkness is not dark to you;

the night is as bright as the day,

for darkness is as light to you.

Search me, O God, and know my heart;

test me and know my thoughts.

See if there is any wicked way in me

and lead me in the way everlasting.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon

A Time of Prayer *For One Great Peace* | #2185 *Blue Songbook*



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



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



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

Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

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

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

Leadership Moment *Limitless Love: Sanctuary Care Ministry*

Offering Our Gifts to God



If you have an offering today, please place it in the plate on the stand next to the communion table before the end of the closing hymn. There are offering plates in the Gathering Space outside the sanctuary too. Thank you for your generosity.

www.parkwayucc.org/giving

Offering Interlude *Wade in the Water*

Wade in the water

Wade in the water children

Wade in the water, God's goin' to trouble the water.

See that band all dressed in white,

God's goin' to trouble the water.

The leader looks like the Israelite.

God's goin' to trouble the water.

See that band all dressed in red,

God's goin' to trouble the water.

It looks like the band that Moses led.

God's goin' to trouble the water.

*Response *Doxology* | #592 (Old Hundredth)

Praise God for love we all may share.

Praise God for beauty everywhere.

Praise God for hope of good to be.

Praise God for truth that makes us free.

*Prayer of Dedication

Holy One, You know us completely and love us without condition.

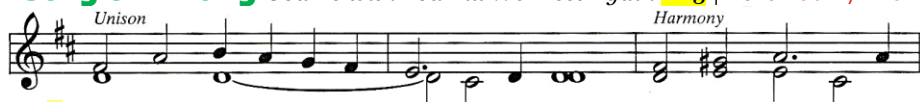
Receive these gifts and use them to share Your hope, justice, and

compassion with the world. Search our hearts, lead us in Your

ways, and help us become a people who reflect Your inclusive love
in all we do. Amen.

*Song of Parting *God Be with You Till We Meet Again* v1-3 | #540 Red Hymnal

Unison Harmony



1. God be with you till we meet a - gain; Lov - ing coun - sels
2. God be with you till we meet a - gain; Un - seen wings pro -
3. God be with you till we meet a - gain; When life's per - ils
4. God be with you till we meet a - gain; Keep love's ban - ner



guide, up - hold you, With a Shep-herd's care en - fold you:
tect - ing hide you, Dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you:
thick con - found you, Put un - fail - ing arms a - round you:
float - ing o'er you, Smite death's threat-ening wave be - fore you:

Unison



God be with you till we meet a - gain.

*Benediction and God's Light Goes Forth

*Music for Going Forth *The Solid Rock (My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less Than Jesus' Love)*. Organ arrangement.

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

Annual School Supplies Collection Part of our Isaiah 58 Ministry

Once again we are asking the Parkway UCC Community to help St. Louis school children get off to a great school year by helping them get the needed supplies. We have been asked to provide 125 boxes of ten washable markers to equip backpacks for those beginning the 26-27 school year. Please purchase one or perhaps several of these ten-packs and deposit them in the bin labeled for school supplies in our collections area in the gathering space. If you have questions, please contact Sally Dodge--s.dodge@hotmail.com

Speaker Series Occasional opportunities after worship at 11:15am **“The Life and Legacy of Teddy Roosevelt,” by Sam Harned.**

TODAY | 11:15am | Heritage Room

Our Speaker explores the remarkable life and career of Teddy Roosevelt, from his youth in Gilded Age New York through his political rise and eventful post-presidential years. As one of America's first truly activist presidents, Roosevelt helped shape the political landscape of the early 20th century. His biography is filled with energy, ambition, and action.

Sam Harned was a legendary Clayton High School history teacher, now retired but never far from an opportunity to teach. Sam is known for a teaching style that sometimes emphasizes minimal technology. No power points here!

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

Youth Mission Trip 2026 STL Experience

God is still speaking! We are planning on doing a Saint Louis mission trip from **TODAY** 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

STL Riverfront Cruise - Extra Tickets!

We have *three* extra tickets to the Riverfront Cruise happening **Thursday, July 23 at 6pm**, with the youth at their end of their mission trip experience. Catch some of the best downtown views with a riverboat cruise in St. Louis. The riverfront cruise lasts for one-hour along the Mississippi River. The riverboats are docked on the historic cobblestone levee on the St. Louis Riverfront. If you would like one of the tickets, please email **gabriel@parkwayucc.org**

Information Session

Missouri Amendments in August and November

Sunday, July 26 | 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. Our speaker will be from the League of Women Voters. For more info, contact Michelle Singer **mrsinger71@gmail.com**

NAMI Night at the Ballpark

Tuesday, July 28 | 6:45-10pm | Busch Stadium

NAMI Night at the Ballpark! Come cheer on the Cardinals as they take on the Chicago Cubs. Ticket price is \$50 and includes a right-field loge seat, a jumbo hot dog and soda and a special t-shirt supporting the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). If you would like to join us, please contact Amy Yakel at 314-956-0217 or **da_yakel@att.net** by **Sunday, July 19**.

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

July Eco Stewards Newsletter

Greetings from your Eco Stewards. You may have noticed that the Pollinator Garden has expanded to the area between the garden and the back kitchen door. Some of these were extra plants from our gardens and others were purchased. We think it's a nice addition and if we can continue to maintain this area, it will add to the serenity, peacefulness and beauty of the larger area. We have other ideas and plans and are excited about meeting with an expert from the Audubon Society, on **Monday evening, the 27, at 6:30pm**. This will be an opportunity to get advice, ask questions and consult with them about our plans, present and future. Anyone who has an interest is welcome to come up, observe, and tag along with Jarel from Audubon. It takes a village though, so if you have an interest in maintaining and beautifying the grounds, join us on Monday nights at 6:30pm (check with Polly first to be sure we'll be there), or we meet at 1pm on the 2nd Tuesday of each month in the Gathering Space (again, check with us first).

Another date to make note of is **Sunday, July 26**. After the service there will be an Adult Ed informational session in the Heritage room regarding the August 4 election and explanation of Amendments 1, 2, 4 and 5. Michelle Singer is hosting this and has a representative from The League of Women Voters to talk about them and answer your questions. Why is it appropriate to hold this kind of session at church, where we live in a country that mandates separation of church and state? I would like to share some words of wisdom that we heard from Rabbi Andrea Goldstein at a recent similar session held at Shaare Emeth:

“Separation of church and state was never meant to keep people of faith from participating in civic life. Synagogues, churches, and mosques are the places where many people come to understand and appreciate our most cherished communal values – justice, equality, caring for the vulnerable, protecting the environment, and freedom. These are the values we want enshrined in our laws. We’ve offered this forum to educate us on the amendments we will be voting on this coming August. Regardless of our individual faith and/or moral traditions, all of us are *here* because we take the responsibility of voting seriously. We want to understand the issues before us so that when we show up at the polls in August, we can cast our votes in ways that align with our most cherished values.”

For more info about Eco Stewards, contact Polly Rutherford
pollyrutherford@gmail.com

Habitat for Humanity Weekday Crew

Parkway has filled our quota for Habitat/Parkway days on **July 11** and **August 1**, but Habitat is always looking for weekday volunteers. Contact Tabatha for details at **tabatha@habitatstl.org**

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

Listening to Our Online Worshipers!

Sunday, August 2 at 11:15am

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 this opportunity 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**

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**

Come Have Lunch in Labadie With the Adventurers

Wednesday, August 19 | 11am-2pm | 123 Front Street, Labadie, MO 63055

The Adventurers invite you to join with a group of fun-loving PUCCers on Wednesday, August 19th, and head out to the Hawthorne Inn in Labadie.

We'll meet at PUCC for carpooling at 10 or at the Hawthorne Inn at 11 if you prefer to drive separately. We'll enjoy a drive out to the small town of Labadie, a delicious lunch in the cool surroundings of the Hawthorne Inn on a hot August day, and good conversation. Please RSVP to Jackie Eiffert, **jeiffert2@gmail.com** by **August 16**. We hope you can join us!

Coffee and Conversation at Panera

Friday, Aug 21 | 10am | 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:**

Monday, Sept 21 at 2pm

Questions? Contact **kevin@parkwayucc.org**; 314-872-9330

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 in VBS!

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.

Thanks! Questions? Contact **kevin@parkwayucc.org**



July news from Faith Alliance

Wow, what a busy and rewarding Pride Month! A photo wrap up, as well as member article by Laura Roberts from Grace UCC in O'Fallon, Mo, are part of this info-packed newsletter. Take a minute to give it a read, and as always, suggestions are always welcome. You can do so through the QR code!



I'm also thinking about this month being the Faith Alliance's anniversary! Two years ago, July 20, a small group of us met around a table at Parkway UCC to formulate an idea of an coalition of affirming congregations. While there always will be more we can do, let's take a moment to reflect on what's been achieved. You all are a blessing! Happy Anniversary, friends!

Love, Deb

deborahreinhardt@att.net

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

Job posting Christian Education and Youth Director

A great opportunity for a part-time 20 hours/week Christian Education and Youth Director. We are a faithful people with a warm heart and generous spirit. We are an intentionally inclusive congregation in a great facility in a prime location. We want to become even more vital and relevant to children, teens and adults. Please contact us if you would like to know more

– employment@parkwayucc.org

Parkway United Church of Christ ~ 2841 N Ballas Rd, St Louis, MO 63131;

parkwayucc.org; 314-872-9330

Join the PUCC Safety Team!

The Safety Team is looking for a few more members to help ensure Parkway UCC remains a safe, welcoming place for everyone on the premises during our Sunday Morning Experience.

As a team member, you will build relationships with Council members, church staff, the congregation, building renters, and local emergency services (medical, fire, and police).

What You'll Do:

- **Learn:** Get trained on the safety procedures and technology currently in use at Parkway.
- **Serve:** Be onsite one Sunday a month from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. (*Note: This includes a 9:00 AM walkthrough with the on-duty police officer and serving as a safety observer during worship*).
- **Guide:** Direct the congregation during unexpected events (such as severe weather, medical emergencies, fire evacuations, or building intruders). You will be responsible for calling 911 and guiding others, not directly handling the emergency itself.
- **Connect:** Attend occasional Safety Team get-togethers.

Have a conversation or contact any of these people if you have questions!

- Lisa Davidson davidsonls@wustl.edu
- Phillip Waite pwaite82@gmail.com
- Nick McMillon mcmillon2004@att.net
- Karen Mariani ksmariani59@gmail.com
- Rich Race racerichardg@gmail.com

Prayer List

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

Celebrations

Beibarys, former exchange student of Gerry and Mike Rogers from Kazakhstan - scholarship for the fall semester in Croatia.

Concerns

Pam Walker - healing after other knee replacement surgery; new address Pam/Brenda: 10556 Emerald Ridge Ave, Apt C, Overland 63114.

Bill & Gail, Christopher Haack - Bill engaged in PT; strengthening.

Family/friends of Deanna - grieving/giving thanks for her (Levin).

Bob and Sharon Thiemann - both dealing with cancer (Litzinger).

Someone just diagnosed - stage 4 metastatic melanoma (McKenzie).

Family/friends of two men murdered by ICE in the last week.

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 families - Sera Watkins and Anthony Williams.

Continuing

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 recent heart surgery (McMillon).

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.

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.

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.

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).

Peace and Justice near and far.

US Military around the globe.

Prayer Chaplain Ministry here at Parkway UCC.

Gabriel Requadt - ‘ordainable pending call’; interviewing with churches now.

Seek

Molly Baskette

The mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. - Isaiah 55:12b (NRSV)

I went to Tokyo for the first time recently. Even as a lifelong city kid, I was ready to be intimidated by the crush of 23 million people, the sea of glass and steel unvaried by green growing things.

I couldn't have been more wrong. Everywhere, cherry blossoms rained on me. Azaleas blazed as brightly as Moses's burning bush. Peonies posed like beauty pageant contestants on graves in quiet Buddhist shrines. Pocket parks whispered me within, detouring me from city streets to walk alongside secret creeks for a couple of blocks. One block from Harajuku's mayhem bloomed a giant park of towering trees, delighted to welcome me and thousands of others—a place where each of us could find solace and solitude.

Even in the built environment, nature was a Broadway star, impossible to ignore.

Back home, I visited a friend at golden hour, looking down from the heights to the flats next to San Francisco Bay. Travel had changed my vision. Now instead of the dreariness of buildings, power poles, endless cars, I saw only the trees rising up silent and silver in the mist above them all.

So many trees! How had I missed the forest for them? It was like the old Magic Eye books, where you have to let your gaze go soft to see the hidden image living within the synthetic pattern.

These days I'm using a new app called Seek to discover the names of every plant and tree I pass. Not just in parks but in every sidewalk crack, freeway shoulder, empty lot. It's helping me keep this new second sight.

Prayer

Wonderful Creator, give us magic eyes to recognize your glory pushing up behind and within all we've built. Especially the applauding trees. Amen.

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

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



The United Church of Christ: A Church of "Firsts"

Since its founding in 1957, the United Church of Christ has sought to live into the Gospel's call to welcome, justice, and extravagant love. While no church has always been first in every area, the UCC has often led the way in expanding the circle of inclusion and speaking for justice.

Some UCC "Firsts" in our UCC and predecessor denominations:

- **1957** The United Church of Christ is formed through the union of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Churches. Happy 69th Birthday to our UCC at the end of June.
- **The first predominantly white Christian denomination to ordain an African American.** In 1785, **Lemuel Haynes**, a Congregational minister, became the first African American ordained by a predominantly white denomination in America.
- **The first woman ordained with full standing in a mainline Protestant denomination.** In 1853, **Antoinette Brown Blackwell** was ordained by a Congregational church in S Butler NY
- **Among the first denominations to ordain openly gay clergy.** In 1972, **William R. Johnson** became the first openly gay person ordained in a mainline Protestant denomination.
- **The first mainline Protestant denomination to affirm equal marriage rights nationally.** In 2005, the UCC's General Synod endorsed equal marriage rights for same-gender couples.
- **One of the first Christian denominations to become Open and Affirming.** Beginning in 1972, local UCC congregations began publicly declaring themselves Open and Affirming (ONA), welcoming people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.
- **An early leader in disability justice.** UCC congregations have long advocated for full accessibility and the gifts of people with disabilities through the Accessible to All (A2A) movement.
- **A founding voice for environmental justice.** The UCC's 1987 study 'Toxic Wastes and Race in the United States' helped bring national attention to environmental racism and inspired the modern environmental justice movement.
- **Among the first denominations to support reproductive justice** by affirming women's moral agency, access to health care, and faithful decision-making.
- **A denomination that continues to covenant for justice.** UCC congregations have embraced ministries such as Open and Affirming (ONA), Accessible to All (A2A), WISE for Mental Health, and Just Peace, seeking to embody God's love for all people.

"That They May All Be One." ~ John 17:21

The United Church of Christ's history reminds us that faith is not only about preserving tradition—it is also about courageously following the Holy Spirit into a more just, compassionate, and welcoming future.

God is still speaking!