



 **PARKWAY**
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



www.parkwayucc.org

July 5, 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 Michelle Brueggemann.

Flowers given by Nick McMillon in honor of Sue's 80th birthday.

Treats provided by Amy & Doug Yakel.

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://warmlines.org/warmlines.html>

Birthdays

7/8 Harold Cobb

7/8 Jack Sieber

7/9 Jeremy Bowman

7/11 Keith Borgmann

Anniversaries

7/9 Helen & Richard Race

6th Sunday *after* Pentecost

Sunday, July 5, 2026 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & YouTube Live

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

Prelude *My Country 'Tis of Thee*

Welcome Let us know you are here!

Meditation Your intention may be kind, but if the impact is pain, kindness wasn't delivered. ~Jessica Taylor

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 *Morning Has Broken* vl, 3 | #469 Red Hymnal



1. Morn-ing has bro - ken Like the first morn - ing, Black-bird has
2. Sweet the rain's new fall Sun - lit from heav - en, Like the first
3. Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing Born of the



spo - ken Like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the
dew - fall On the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness Of the wet
one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion, Praise ev - ery



morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing Fresh from the Word!
gar - den, Sprung in com - plete - ness Where God's feet pass.
morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion Of the new day!

Scripture Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 | New Revised Standard, Updated
Jesus asked, “But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

“For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, God, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, God, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by God, and no one knows the Son except God, and no one knows God except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal himself.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

***Call to Worship**

One: Come, all who are weary from the burdens of the world.

Many: Christ invites us to rest in love.

One: Come, all who long for freedom that reaches deeper than politics, borders, or fears.

Many: God calls us into the freedom of compassion, justice, and grace.

One: Come with your questions, your hopes, your celebrations, and your concerns.

Many: We come to learn from the One who is gentle and humble in heart.

One: Let us worship the God whose love sets people free.

Many: We come to worship with grateful hearts and open spirits.

One: We come to be renewed in our commitment to be more like Jesus, infused by the Holy Spirit.

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

*Song This is My Song, O God of All the Nations



1. This is my song, O God of all the na-tions,
2. My coun-try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,
3. This is my prayer, O Rul - er of all na-tions:



a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.
and sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine;
let thy reign come; on earth thy will be done.



This is my home, the coun - try where my heart is;
but oth - er lands have sun - light too, and clo - ver,
In peace may all earth's peo - ple draw to - geth - er,



here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;
and skies are ev - ery - where as blue as mine.
and hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one.



but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing
O hear my song, thou God of all the na-tions,
O hear my prayer, thou God of all the na-tions;



with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
a song of peace for their land and for mine.
my - self I give thee; let thy will be done.

*Opening Prayer

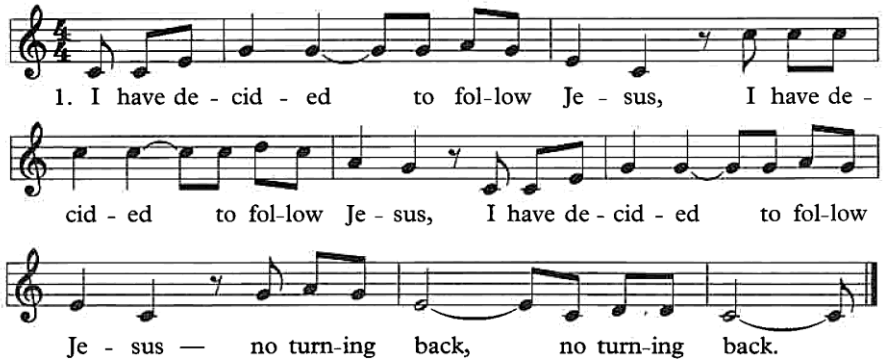
God of every nation and every people, we gather today grateful for the freedoms we enjoy, while remembering those whose freedoms are still denied. Teach us the wisdom of Christ, who welcomed the overlooked, challenged the powerful, and offered rest to all who carried heavy burdens. Open our hearts to hear your voice, our minds to learn your ways, and our lives to become instruments of your peace. May this time of worship renew us for the work of love. 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 *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.

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 *Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor* - Irving Berlin, arr. for SSA. Words (excerpt) by: Emma Lazarus from *New Colossus*

Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest, tossed to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!

***Response** *They'll Know We Are Christians* v1, 3 | #2223 *Blue Songbook*



1. We are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,
2. We will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,
3. We will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,
4. All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,



we are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,
we will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,
we will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,
and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,



and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
and we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's pride:
and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

Refrain



And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our love.



yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Generous God, receive these gifts and the offering of our lives. May they bring rest to the weary, hope to the discouraged, welcome to the stranger, and justice to those whose voices are too often ignored. Use what we offer today to help build your kin-dom of compassion and peace, where all people may live in dignity and freedom. Amen.

Scripture Romans 7:15-25a | Common English Bible

I don't know what I'm doing, because I don't do what I want to do. Instead, I do the thing that I hate. But if I'm doing the thing that I don't want to do, I'm agreeing that the Law is right. But now I'm not the one doing it anymore. Instead, it's sin that lives in me. I know that good doesn't live in me - that is, in my body. The desire to do good is inside of me, but I can't do it. I don't do the good that I want to do, but I do the evil that I don't want to do. But if I do the very thing that I don't want to do, then I'm not the one doing it anymore. Instead, it is sin that lives in me that is doing it.

So I find that, as a rule, when I want to do what is good, evil is right there with me. I gladly agree with the Law on the inside, but I see a different law at work in my body. It wages a war against the law of my mind and takes me prisoner with the law of sin that is in my body. I'm a miserable human being. Who will deliver me from this dead corpse? Thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon

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 *Let Us Break Bread Together* | #513 Red Hymnal



1. Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees;)
2. Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees;)



Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees. (on our knees.)
Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees. (on our knees.)



When I fall on my knees, With my face to the ris - ing sun,



O Lord, have mer - cy on me. (on me.)



3. Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees; (on our knees;)



Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, With my face to the ris - ing sun,



O Lord, have mer-cy on me. (on me.)

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 Meditation *Venite ad me* - Music by Aria Thomé

Omnes qui laboratis et oneratis estis, et ego reficiam vos
(Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.)

These verses are direct quotations from lived experiences of immigrants

When my mother struggles to spell a word in English,
I want to break the entire language into little pieces
so the edges of these letters will stop cutting her.

Do you know what a foreign accent is?
It's a sign of bravery.

Here's to the bus driver,
the Turkish Sufi who almost danced when I quoted Rumi.

You have to understand,
that no one puts their children in a boat
unless the water is safer than the land.

You have no idea what it is like to lose home
at the risk of never finding home again,
have your entire life split between two lands
and become the bridge between two countries.

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy One, at this table you welcomed us, fed us, and reminded us that your expectations can be met because they are shared in love. As we leave this place, may the nourishment we have received become strength for the journey, courage to seek justice, humility to listen, and compassion to bear one another's burdens. On this weekend when many celebrate freedom, send us into the world as people who work for a freedom that includes everyone - freedom from fear, from hatred, from hunger, from loneliness, and from despair. May we walk gently with you, finding rest for our souls as we become signs of your healing and hope in the world. Amen.

*Song of Parting *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past* | #210 Red Hymnal



1. Our God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,
2. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, Or earth re - ceived its frame,
3. A thou - sand a - ges in Thy sight Are like an eve - ning gone;
4. Time, like an ev - er roll - ing stream, Soon bears us all a - way;



Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home:
From ev - er - last - ing Thou art God, To end - less years the same.
Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.
We fly for - got - ten, as a dream Dies at the o - pening day.

*Benediction

*God's Light Goes Forth

***Music for Going Forth** *This is my Song (Finlandia)* by Jean Sibelius, arranged for organ by Aria Thome

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

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

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

Habitat for Humanity Weekday Crews

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

Speaker Series Occasional opportunities after worship at 11:15am

“Hope Without Borders: Delivering Vaccines Where They’re Needed Most,” by Dawn Jones-Goldsten, PhD.

Sunday, July 12 | 11:15am | Heritage Room

Our speaker, Dr. Jones-Goldstein, is a Pfizer vaccine scientist and a member of Parkway UCC. She works at Pfizer’s Chesterfield location, which primarily focuses on vaccines research and development. Key work includes formulation, development, analytical testing, and manufacturing of drug candidates for clinical trials.

Dr. Jones-Goldstein’s presentation will explore how global collaboration has changed the trajectory of childhood disease in Southern Africa — and how emerging vaccines against RSV and Group B Strep (GBS) may further reduce infant death and lifelong disability.

Together, we’ll look at what happens when science, stewardship, and compassion intersect to protect the next generation.

“The Life and Legacy of Teddy Roosevelt,” by Sam Harned.

Sunday, July 19 | 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 eventual 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

Support WashU Research Public Comment Opportunity

The federal government has proposed significant changes to regulations governing federally funded research that could impact research, clinical trials, student training, and innovation at Washington University.

The WashU community is encouraged to learn more, submit a public comment, or sign a petition through the Protect Our Research Enterprise campaign. The public comment period closes **July 13**.

Visit the Protect Our Research Enterprise website through the QR code to learn more and participate, or contact Lisa Davidson davidsonls@wustl.edu



Listening to Our Online Worshipers!

Weds, July 15 at 10am | 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 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

Wednesday, July 15 | 2pm | 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:**

Fri, Aug 21 at 10am Mon, Sept 21 at 2pm

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

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

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. For more info, contact Michelle Singer mrsinger71@gmail.com

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 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

Praying Together for Venezuela

Dear Friends, like many of you, I have watched with grief the reports coming from Venezuela following the devastating earthquakes that struck [last] week. Two powerful earthquakes, occurring less than a minute apart, have left communities mourning loved ones, searching for those still missing, and facing the long work of recovery. Rescue efforts continue even now, and the full scope of the tragedy is still unfolding.

As followers of Christ, we are reminded that when one part of the human family suffers, we are called to bear that burden together in prayer, compassion, and hope.

I invite our congregations this Sunday to remember the people of Venezuela in your prayers. Pray for those who have lost family members, for those awaiting word of loved ones, for first responders and medical workers, for church leaders and relief organizations, and for all who are seeking signs of hope amid overwhelming loss.

May we also remain attentive to opportunities to offer tangible support through trusted relief organizations as they respond in the days ahead.

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” (Psalm 46:1)

May the God who is present in every valley of sorrow surround the people of Venezuela with comfort, courage, and the steadfast love that never lets us go.

Blessings,

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

Disability Pride Night at the Cardinals

Join the Cardinals to celebrate **Disability Pride Night** on **Saturday, July 11th!** With the purchase of a special Theme Ticket, fans will take home an exclusive Cardinals t-shirt featuring the disability pride flag.

What is Disability Pride?

Disability Pride is a movement that celebrates the experiences and identities of people with disabilities. It shifts the narrative from finding a cure to embracing the uniqueness of our bodies and minds. At its core, Disability Pride recognizes disability as a natural part of the human experience while magnifying disability culture, community, and joy.

The shirt features an STL logo with coloring based on the Disability Pride Flag created by writer Ann Magill.

Each color of the flag represents a different disability experience:

- Red – physical disabilities
- Gold – neurodiversity
- White – invisible disabilities and disabilities that haven't yet been diagnosed
- Blue – emotional and psychiatric disabilities, including mental illness, anxiety, and depression
- Green – for sensory disabilities, including deafness, blindness, lack of smell, lack of taste, audio processing disorder, and all other sensory disabilities

This event is planned in partnership with our friends at **Starkloff Disability InSTITUTE** – a local nonprofit focused on building inclusion where we live, learn, work, and play through disability-led programs that advance economic opportunity and transform lives.

For more information, visit the Cardinals website or <https://www.mlb.com/cardinals/tickets/specials/theme-tickets/disability-pride?msocid=ocod6e4d86336a4a08f3792a875c6b78>



Prayer List

Wednesday, July 1, 2026

Celebrations

Beibarys, former exchange student of Gerry and Mike Rogers from Kazakhstan, has been awarded a scholarship for the fall semester at Algebra Bernays University in Croatia.

Concerns

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

The people of Venezuela after deadly earthquakes.

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 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.

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.

Red Coats and Hats

by Matt Laney

July 4, 2025

They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. –
2 Peter 2:19 (NRSV)

Today the U.S. celebrates the adoption of a document that began with “all men are created equal” while simultaneously excluding women, Indigenous peoples, and enslaved Africans. Independence for some. Chains for others. This year we’re watching our imperfect yet hard-won freedoms vanish like ink in a driving rain.

Tyranny has evolved. It no longer wears a red coat. It disguises itself in slogans about freedom while legislating fear. It speaks of liberty while banning books and silencing dissent. It wraps itself in the flag and demands allegiance not to neighbor or justice, but to party, power, and a past that wasn’t golden for everyone. The red coat has become a red hat.

While that hat may claim to make a nation great again, Jesus never told us to make nations great. He told us to love our enemies, welcome the stranger, lay down power. For Christ-followers, patriotism is never a higher calling than mercy and peacemaking. National loyalty is never a substitute for gospel justice.

What do we do when an empire baptizes bigotry and calls it righteousness? We do what Jesus did. We flip the tables. We tell inconvenient truths. We feed the hungry, shelter the refugee, vote for the vulnerable, and pray with our feet.

If fireworks ring hollow, you’re not alone. Light a candle instead. Celebrate a deeper kind of freedom, one granted not by documents or borders but by the Spirit who moves through protest songs and communion tables alike. The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends when we pull.

Prayer: *Liberating God, give us courage to do justice, love mercy, and march boldly when fireworks fail. Amen.*

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

