





www.parkwayucc.org

August 23, 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 Jackie Eiffert.

Flowers given by a very loving husband.

Treats provided by Sally Ann Dodge.

Our Prayer Chaplain this morning is Emma Zyriek-Rhodes.



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

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

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Mental Health Support

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

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

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

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

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

The numbers below are called Warmlines (not Hotlines).

They are peer run by people with lived experience.

Not all of them are 24/7/365

Teen Warm Line: 1 800-248-8336

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

Trans Warm Line: 1-877-565-8860

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

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

Birthdays

8/23 Todd Schowalter

8/23 David Schatz

8/23 Sally Ann Dodge

8/24 Mary Joy

8/24 Madison Pounds

8/24 Payton Nienhaus

8/26 Summer Lyons

8/27 Kelly Shelton

Lawson

8/27 Helen Race

8/28 Lauren Yakel

8/29 Mike Stolze

Anniversaries

8/23 April & Jameson Tallyn

8/24 Carol & John Russell

8/26 Doug & ValDouglas &

Valerie Detjen

8/29 Carol & Harold Cobb

13th Sunday *after* Pentecost

Sunday, August 23, 2026 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & YouTube Live

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

We are so pleased to have FOOT (Friends of Old Time) musicians here with us again this morning. Thank you for coming back! We so appreciate and enjoy your gifts.

Prelude *Cora Dye*

Welcome Let us know you are here!

Meditation Compassion is the key in Islam and Buddhism and Judaism and Christianity. They are profoundly similar. ~Karen Armstrong

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 *Laughing Marj*

Scripture Exodus 1:8-2:10 | Common English Bible

Now a new king came to power in Egypt who didn't know Joseph. He said to his people, "The Israelite people are now larger in number and stronger than we are. Come on, let's be smart and deal with them. Otherwise, they will only grow in number. And if war breaks out, they will join our enemies, fight against us, and then escape from the land." As a result, the Egyptians put foremen of forced work gangs over the Israelites to harass them with hard work. They had to build storage cities named Pithom and Rameses for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they grew and spread, so much so that the Egyptians started to look at the Israelites with disgust and dread. So the Egyptians enslaved the Israelites. They made their lives miserable with hard labor, making mortar and bricks, doing field work, and by forcing them to do all kinds of other cruel work.

The king of Egypt spoke to two Hebrew midwives named Shiphrah and Puah: "When you are helping the Hebrew women give birth and you see the baby being born, if it's a boy, kill him. But if it's a girl, you can let her live." Now the two midwives respected God so they didn't obey the Egyptian king's order. Instead, they let the baby boys live.

So the king of Egypt called the two midwives and said to them, "Why are you doing this? Why are you letting the baby boys live?"

The two midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because Hebrew women aren't like Egyptian women. They're much stronger and give birth before any midwives can get to them." So God treated the midwives well, and the people kept on multiplying and became very strong. And because the midwives respected God, God gave them households of their own.

Then Pharaoh gave an order to all his people: "Throw every baby boy born to the Hebrews into the Nile River, but you can let all the girls live."

Now a man from Levi's household married a Levite woman. The woman became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She saw that the baby was healthy and beautiful, so she hid him for three months. When she couldn't hide him any longer, she took a reed basket and sealed it up with black tar. She put the child in the basket and set the basket among the reeds at the riverbank. Miriam, the baby's older sister, stood watch nearby to see what would happen to him.

Pharaoh's daughter came down to bathe in the river, while her women servants walked along beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds, and she sent one of her servants to bring it to her. When she opened it, she saw the child. The boy was crying, and she felt sorry for him. She said, "This must be one of the Hebrews' children."

Then the baby's sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Would you like me to go and find one of the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?"

Pharaoh's daughter agreed, "Yes, do that." So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I'll pay you for your work." So the woman took the child and nursed it. After the child had grown up, she brought him back to Pharaoh's daughter, who adopted him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I pulled him out of the water."

***Call to Worship**

One: We come to worship carrying the stories that have shaped us - the families that raised us, the faith we inherited, the questions we have asked, the joys and wounds we have known.

Many: **We bring our whole selves into this sacred space.**

One: Some of us learned faith as children and some later on. Some of us have questioned everything we were taught. Some have found God in certainty; others have found God in mystery.

Many: **We bring our different experiences, perspectives, and journeys.**

One: Moses was shaped by more than one world. Jesus grew within a particular family, culture, and tradition. And each of us has been formed by people and experiences that others may never fully know.

Many: **So let us make room for one another.**

One: May we listen before we judge, seek understanding before assuming, and hold our differences with graciousness.

Many: **May this be a spacious place - wide enough for every story, every question, every way of becoming.**

One: Come, experience the God who meets us in our particular stories and calls us into a larger story of love.

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

Song *Rosco*

*Opening Prayer

Gracious and spacious God, You know the stories that have shaped us - what we were taught, what we questioned, and what we have come to believe or leave behind. You know the experiences that have opened our hearts and those that have made us cautious or afraid. We are all formed by family, culture, tradition, and circumstance, and yet You call us beyond the limits of our own experience. Give us humility to remember we do not see the whole story, curiosity to listen well, and generosity to learn from one another. When we misunderstand, give us grace to pause, to listen, and to begin again. Make this a spacious community deep and wide, where questions are welcome and difference does not become division. May our faith grow not smaller, but ever more wider - regularly making room for one another. Amen.

*Response *Spirit of the Living God*

Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me;

Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me!

Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.

Children's Time For children under the age of 3, parents are invited to take them to Room 06 (upper level) where one of our teachers will meet them at the door. Children and youth will gather in Room 13 (lower level) for the Opening Session. Children from age 3 to 2nd grade will then go to Room 12, children from 3rd to 5th grade will stay in Room 13, and youth from 6th to 12th grade will go to Room 15. For children in Room 06, parents please pick them up after worship. Children and youth from age 3 thru high school can be met in the Gathering Space just outside the Sanctuary after worship, as the teachers will bring them back upstairs after class.

Blessing the Children *Lead Me, Guide Me*

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way,
for if you lead me, I can - not stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Scripture Luke 2:39-52 | New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition
When Jesus, Mary and Joseph had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child Jesus grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents were unaware of this. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously looking for you." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in God's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them, and his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years and in divine and human favor.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon

A Time of Prayer *Winder's Slide* by Rayna Gellert

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.]

Stewardship Moment

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 *Swannanoa Waltz* by Rayna Gellert

***Response** *Make Me a Servant* | #2176 *Blue Songbook*

Make me a ser-vant, hum-ble and meek, Lord, let me
lift up those who are weak. And may the prayer of my
heart al-ways be: Make me a ser-vant, make me a
ser-vant, make me a ser-vant to-day. _____

***Prayer of Dedication**

Holy One, we offer these gifts as a sign of what we value and the community we hope to become. May they help create a church with room for all - those with certain faith and those with questions, those shaped by church and those wounded by it, people of every generation, culture, and experience. Teach us to give not only our resources, but also our attention, patience, and compassion. Help us remember that every person carries a story we may not know. Give us the humility to listen, the openness to learn, and the love to make room for one another. Use what we give today to widen welcome and deepen love. Amen.

***Song** *Over the Waterfall*

Benediction

God's Light Goes Forth

Announcements

***Music for Going Forth** *Step Around Johnny*

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

Flowers & Refreshments needed at Parkway!

Flowers and Refreshments needed at Parkway Pretty Please! Two Vitality teams provide people to help promote our limitless love and welcoming to Parkway UCC. From hot, warming coffee to a variety of refreshments provided by weekly donors and welcoming ushers, to our friendly greeters we provide an excellent environment. Another team provides care for our beautiful sanctuary with candles, flowers and communion preparations, lay readers, and decorations of various holidays in the sanctuary. Flowers are donated by members and friends and pay \$35 online or by check to the office. Team members purchase the flowers for the donors, arrange them and either ready them for the donor to take home or cut them up in small vases for home-centered and other bound friends.

Refreshments are provided by members or friends and purchase treats as they wish. We ask donors for about one hundred small items. Check the sign-up poster in the Gathering Space and sign up by signature or QR code leading you to the website. To learn how you can be involved with these teams, contact Carol Cobb cobster70@gmail.com *Thank you!*



Speaker Series Occasional opportunities after worship at 11:15am "Whether its Abracadabra or Alakazam, Magic is a Wonderful Art," by Tim Shegitz.

TODAY | 11:15am | Heritage Room

Did you know that our newest tenant at Parkway Church is the St. Louis Chapter of the International Brotherhood of Magicians? Its Vice President is St. Louis magician Tim Shegitz. He brings decades of magical wisdom and wonder with every appearance. As a regular performer requested at the world-famous Magic Castle of Hollywood, Tim has entertained both professional magicians and fans alike.

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](mailto:Richard.Scherrer@90fivetpr@gmail.com)

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

Tuesday, Oct 20 at 2pm

Wednesday, Nov 11 at 10am

Monday, Dec 7 at 2pm

Wednesday, Jan 20, 2027 at 10am

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

Go AWOL this Fall - Adventurous Women Out Late

Come build connections with women this fall with some fun upcoming events!

- Saturday 8/22: Lunch at Tea Party - Carpool from church at 11am.
- Saturday 9/26: "Little Women" at The Rep - Carpool from church at 3pm (show at 4pm). \$30. Ten tickets total. Register through QR code.
- Sunday 10/18: Harvest Festival at Tower Grove Park - Carpool after church.
- Friday 11/13: Dinner out
- Sunday 12/13: Allegro—More details to come in early November.



For more info, contact Carmen Bumgarner **cfbum@charter.net**

Tuesday Evening Dialogue

2nd and 4th Tuesdays | 6-8pm | Heritage Room

Zoom Meeting ID: 849 4403 9731; Passcode: 792617

Please join us for our next TED session on **Tuesday, August 25** as we begin our discussion on the novel *The Measure* by Nikki Erlick. It starts with what seems to be an ordinary day, however, everyone in the world opens their front door that day to find a small wooden box. This box holds your fate inside: the answer to the exact number of years you will live. In an instant, the world is thrust into a collective fantasy. The author introduces complex characters whose decisions and lives interweave with one another. This book is described as an enchanting, uplifting and invigorating story about family, friendship, hope and destiny that encourages us to live life to the fullest. We will be discussing the first third of this book which is up to page 113 Chapter Ben.

Please join us at 6 pm for Potluck Supper followed by Book Discussion at 7 pm. If you can't make it in person, please join us on Zoom.

For questions contact Helen Race at **raceh@att.net**

Rainbow Bridge Remembrance Day

August 27 | 6pm | 11735 Denny Road, Sunset Hills, MO

Recognizing that the loss of a beloved pet is a grief many people carry quietly, St. Lucas United Church of Christ is hosting its first Rainbow Bridge Remembrance Day Worship Service.

Established in 2015 and inspired by the beloved poem “Rainbow Bridge”, Rainbow Bridge Remembrance Day honors the lives of beloved pets and animal companions while acknowledging the very real grief that accompanies their loss. For countless families, the death of a cherished pet is a profound loss that often goes unrecognized.

Grounded in the Christian promise that love is stronger than death, St. Lucas UCC is offering this community worship service as a place of compassion, healing, and hope where people can gather to worship God, remember beloved companions, mourn their loss, celebrate their lives, and give thanks for the unconditional love they shared.

The service includes scripture, music, a reflection, an original spoken-word piece, opportunities for personal prayer, and a blessing of items brought in remembrance of beloved pets. A voluntary offering will benefit a local animal-related nonprofit. The Rainbow Bridge Remembrance Day Worship Service is free and open to all people. They are welcoming to all and are dedicated to transforming the world as the hands and feet of Christ. Learn more at **www.stlucasucc.org**. Hunter from Kirkwood UCC will preach. Kevin is one of the pastors leading this service.

Annual Church Picnic

Join us on **Sunday, August 30**, for a special Youth Sunday! Our Youth will lead worship, and our children will share a special performance. After worship, we'll gather for a fun summer picnic with food, games, and plenty of fellowship. And what's a summer celebration without ice cream? An ice cream truck will be on hand to sweeten the day, with dessert generously provided by Betty & Richard Scherrer. We hope you'll join us for this special day together!

Questions? Contact Ingrid at **scharf.ingrid@gmail.com**

Prayer Corner an opportunity to pray with someone

Monday, August 31 | 7-9pm | 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, 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, 2027 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

ONA August Newsletter

ONA isn't simply a movement. It's a call to action. This was the message given a little more than a year ago by Rev. Derek Terry, executive director of the Open and Affirming Coalition, to the United Church of Christ at its General Synod. Earlier this month, news of Rev. Terry's passing rocked the ONA family. An inspiration to many, Rev. Terry was a gifted leader, preacher, justice warrior and artist, and the world is a little darker without his light.

On April 27, 2008, Parkway voted to become Open and Affirming with 83.5 percent approval. We remain thankful to the exploratory committee led by Carol Cobb who took that bold step forward and led a congregation into deep discussion and discernment. We're a better church because of this.

And because of Rev. Terry, the 2,000 ONA churches across the country are reminded that we must be the voice for welcome and the affirmation of LGBTQ+ people. During these days when politicians target LGBTQ+ people for power and profit, Rev. Terry reminds us that, "the Church must not be a bystander; we must be a sanctuary." Our work happens within the congregation and in the streets.

The mission for Parkway's ONA Team is to explore how we can more deeply lean into our ONA covenant. We've tried to do this, but we have more work ahead of us, and we're inviting you to join us. If you're interested to learn more, speak to one of the team members (Diane Brost, Sally Dodge, Kris Impastato, Deb Reinhardt, Greg Schmelig, or Pam Walker).

New Ferguson Pride organization

In July, St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Ferguson hosted two organizing meetings for Ferguson Pride. This newly formed group co-founded by Jake Bain recognizes the need for safe and affirming spaces for the Black queer community here and wants to plan St. Louis County's first Pride parade in 2027. Ferguson Pride seeks to empower, unify, and celebrate LGBTQ+ residents and allies in Ferguson and the greater North St. Louis County area. We're thankful for this new community organization and are following its work. To get more involved in ONA matters, contact Deb Reinhardt deborahreinhardt@att.net

Come Join with TAD for the book discussion on Atmosphere

1st & 3rd Tuesday | 1:45pm fellowship | 2:00-3:00pm discussion
Zoom Link (312) 626-6799; Meeting ID: 898 7822 0593; Passcode: 393204
Please join us on **Tuesday, September 1**, for fellowship, learning, and fun with TAD as we continue our discussion of Atmosphere by Taylor Jenkins Reid, pages 111 - 221 (up to Summer 1983). Atmosphere is an epic novel set against the backdrop of the 1980s space shuttle program, about the extraordinary lengths we go to live and love beyond our limits. An ambitious young woman named Joan Goodwin is content with her life as a professor of physics and astronomy until she comes across an ad seeking the first women scientists to join NASA's space shuttle program. Joan is selected for the program, and through her experiences begins to question everything she thinks she knows about her place in the observable universe.

We'd love to have you join us on Zoom on September 1! Feel free to stop in at 1:45pm for fellowship before the book discussion starts. For more info, reach out to Jackie Eiffert jeiffert2@gmail.com

The Greatest Night in Baseball

Sunday, September 6 | 6-9:30pm | 2301 Grizzlie Bear Blvd, Sauget, IL 62206
Grab your baseball hats and rolls of toilet paper (yes, you read that right!) for the greatest night in baseball! The last home game of the season for the Gateway Grizzlies is a fun-filled evening for all. At the end of the game, fans teepee the stadium while fireworks celebrate the end of the season. Everyone is welcome! For more info, contact Liz Lyons lizardstifel@gmail.com

Back-to-School Supply Drive, and Golf Classic for ECH

Back-to-School Drive (Now–September 11)

Every Child's Hope is currently collecting school supplies and backpacks to help children and families begin the school year with confidence. Whether you're able to donate supplies, share the drive with friends or coworkers, or simply help spread the word, every act of support has an impact.

Use the QR code containing [most needed items](#) and Amazon Wish List.



Every Child's Hope Golf Classic – September 14

ECH's annual Golf Classic is one of their signature fundraising events. While they have enough volunteers for the day-of, they need support in sharing the information for in-kind donations and sponsorships

Thank you for the countless ways you support Every Child's Hope. They look forward to meeting many of you soon and working together throughout the year. If you ever have questions or would like to get more involved, please don't hesitate to reach out.

For more info, reach out to Ashley Milam aviehmnn@gmail.com

Special Olympics Bocce Tournament

Saturday, Sept 12 | 11am-3pm | 123 Leon Hall Parkway, Hillsboro, MO 63050
Four volunteers are needed to join Kevin in facilitating the games they will be at Hillsboro High School. We will facilitate the games, cheer for the athletes, and keep score of the matches. We will assist with the breaking down and loading up the equipment into SOMO vehicles. Training will be provided by Bocce experts and T-shirts will be given to volunteers. Contact Kevin to volunteer kevin@parkwayucc.org

Shaw Neighbors for Neighbors: Supporting Immigrant Families

Sunday, September 13 | 2-4pm | 4200 Blaine Ave, St. Louis

Join MaTovu for an afternoon of live music, community, and solidarity at a benefit concert supporting our immigrant neighbors.

Enjoy performances by:

- Greenwood Trio
- Wild Mountain Thyme Machine with Lukas Simpson

Every dollar raised will be donated to Abide in Love STL, a local organization that supports detained immigrants and their loved ones. Snacks and drinks will be available by donation throughout the afternoon. Silent auction featuring your favorite local visual artists.

Tickets are available on a sliding scale from \$20-\$40, or you can make an additional donation through the QR code. For more info, contact Dawn Jones-Goldstein dawn.michelle.jones@gmail.com



Ordination Service for Gabriel Requadt!

You are cordially invited to the Ordination Service of Gabriel Requadt on **Sunday, September 20, at 3pm**, here at Parkway UCC. All are welcome! Gabriel has accepted a position as the Senior Minister at Immanuel UCC in Sedalia, MO. There will be a reception afterwards. For any questions, or if you'd like to help, please reach out to Gabriel or Kevin Cameron gabriel@parkwayucc.org or kevin@parkwayucc.org

St Louis Metro CROP Hunger Walk

Sunday, September 27 | 2-3pm | 475 E Lockwood Ave, Webster Groves

The annual SL Metro CROP Hunger walk is rapidly approaching. Parkway UCC has consistently been a leading supporter of the walk which is greatly appreciated. CROP Hunger Walks are held in over 500 communities raising millions to eradicate hunger and poverty in over 35 countries. 25% of the funds raised stay locally to fight hunger and this year will be donated to Circle of Concern, Webster Rock Hill Ministries and a new organization, Growing Food Growing People. The remaining 75% supports the global mission of Church World Service (CWS) which is used to reduce hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster. Please join us either in person or virtually to walk, give and change the world, one step at a time. Use the QR code to donate or join the Parkway UCC team. For more info, reach out to Pam Manning pmanning5078@gmail.com



Book Launch by Lesley Hunter

Monday, September 28 | 6-8pm | 1640 S Lindbergh Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63131
Come to the St. Louis County Library, Clark Family Branch, for Lesley Hunter's book launch of *Madness to Manifestation*. In this courageous and deeply reflective memoir, Lesley traces her journey from collapse to coherence. Through EMDR, nervous system regulation, transcranial magnetic stimulation, and relentless self-inquiry, she transforms what once felt like madness into integration. Along the way, she reclaims the intuitive gifts inherited from her grandmother, the empathy modeled by her mother, and the discipline instilled by her father, refining sensitivity into strength. For more info, contact Lesley's Aunt - Jo Grove jogroveo8@gmail.com

Two Ways to Get Involved at PUC!

The Leadership Commission is looking for members who would like to share their experience and help support the work of the church.

Personnel Relations Committee

Help connect our non-pastoral staff, Council and congregation, including assisting with job descriptions and interviews. Experience in HR or working with staff is helpful but not necessary.

Tenant Relations Committee

Facilities & Rentals

Help coordinate with the groups, individuals and organizations who use our church space and match their needs with our available facilities. Experience with real estate or rental contracts is helpful but not necessary.

Interested in getting involved? Please reach out to **Lana Biondo, Nancy Litzinger, Deborah Reinhardt** or **Emma Zyriek-Rhodes** on the Leadership Commission.

Help PUCer Elisabeth Doty, New Teacher in Mississippi

Thank you to so many of you for following up about Elisabeth's request for help as she begins the adventure of teaching high school math through the Mississippi Teacher Corps (<https://www.mtc.olemiss.edu/>). Want to help? Please reach out to kevin@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

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)

Our ten-member team has formed and will be commissioned later this month.

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

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**

Prayer List

Wednesday, August 19, 2026

Celebrations

Sofia Emilia Pena - born 8/16 NYC; first grandchild for Karen Mariani
Students, families, teachers, administrators, staff as school comes.
Liam, Jo Grove's grandson - settling into Vienna for undergrad work.
Gabriel Requadt - called to be pastor at Immanuel UCC, Sedalia, MO.

Concerns

Cindy Wessel and family as they mourn and celebrate her mother.
Pleis Family - grief/gratitude for Jack who recently died by suicide.
Murphy - diagnosed with thyroid cancer (Zyriek-Rhodes' dog).
Barbara Mester Degnan - family/friends in grief (Litzinger).
Regina Santos Avila - that she feels love and light (Wagner-Muns).
Kari Ward - recovering from surgery (Litzinger).
Fain Family - meaningful, joyful employment that supports them all.
Thiemann family - grieving/celebrating Bob; Sharon's cancer care.
John "Pink" Floyd and family - as he receives cancer treatments.
The Wildfires in Canada - all those impacted and the helpers.
Ongoing chaos in the Middle East, Ukraine and Russia.
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).
Sharon and Chuck - facing a number of health challenges (Rogers).
Sam Harned - fighting a return of cancer after years in remission.
Bob & Jan - health, wholeness, peace, joy (Laura Waite's grandparents).
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 - 3723 Hickory House Lane; StL, MO 63125; 557-243-5699; 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.

PUCF 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.

Our St Louis neighbors finding their way after May '25 tornado

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.

Uganda and The Congo in a time of Ebola.

Prayer Chaplain Ministry here at Parkway UCC.



Drama

Quinn G. Caldwell

My heart is stricken and withered like grass; I am too wasted to eat my bread. Because of my loud groaning, my bones cling to my skin. - Psalm 102:4-5 (NRSV)

In my house we love *Howl's Moving Castle*, both the movie and the book. In it, there's a scene where vain and self-centered Wizard Howl dyes his hair a slightly wrong color. He spectacularly decompensates, unconsciously summoning evil spirits to scare the other inhabitants of the castle, and ultimately ending up collapsed and oozing a sinking green slime of his own making, moaning that life isn't worth living. Sophie, another main character, has younger siblings and little patience for this kind of thing. "He's just throwing a tantrum," she tells the others, and summarily drags him off to the showers to get over it.

I bet Howl said stuff just like Psalm 102 while he oozed. Usually, when I read this psalm, I picture real suffering: war, sickness, oppression. This time, I couldn't help thinking about Howl's hair drama. I've had a spiral or two over silly things. Maybe you have too. Mid-tantrum, it can be easy to lose perspective.

A lot of people claim persecution and suffering when what they're actually experiencing is inconvenience. Then again, a lot of people are actually persecuted, actually suffering. Who's to say which is which?

Honestly, it doesn't much matter if your suffering is "real." Either way, God's compassion is firm, says the psalmist. God's regard is everlasting. God's will is the freedom of those bound—by suffering or by their own pouting.

Good news for anyone for whom Psalm 102 speaks, the ones who are actually suffering and the ones mid-tantrum who only think they are.

Prayer

Be with me when what I need is healing, and be with me when what I need is to be tossed in the shower to get over it. Amen.

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

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



BACK TO SCHOOL WORD SEARCH

F	R	I	E	N	D	S	P	T	T	A	L	X	Z	S	X
Y	R	C	H	A	L	K	B	O	A	R	D	P	Z	W	F
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