





www.parkwayucc.org

September 27, 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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Deb Reinhardt, *LGBTQ+ Faith Alliance* [lgbtfaithalliance@aol.com]

John Nourse, *Pastor Emeritus*

Welcome to Parkway

Thank you for joining us this morning! If you are with us virtually, please let us know you are here by commenting in the chat or sending an email.

Welcome Children We invite children to full participation in worship. We also have activity bags for young children to use while they are here.

Bell Rung During Lord's Prayer A tradition begun when farmers working in surrounding fields would stop their work and join in prayer.

Worship Serving Today

Scripture Reader is Kari Borgmann.

Flowers given by Sara and Keith Doll in celebration of Richmond & Dot Bass' Wedding Anniversary - Sara's parents.

Treats provided by Ellie Svenson.

Our Prayer Chaplain this morning is Lynn Mark.



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

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

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Mental Health Support

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

Birthdays

9/28 Kim Weas	10/02 Dan Connors
9/29 Doug Yakel	10/03 Kathy Hilgeman
9/29 Mike Rutherford	10/03 Denyse Schrenker
9/29 Lisa Duke	10/04 Iris Cameron
9/30 Pam Manning	

16th Sunday *after* Pentecost

Sunday, September 20, 2026 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & YouTube Live
When you see the (*), please rise in body or spirit - depending on your comfort.

Prelude *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*

Traditional Spiritual | Setting by John Carter | Trumpet - Tim Osiek

Welcome Let us know you are here!

Meditation The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference. ~Elie Wiesel

Passing the Peace of Christ

"May the peace of Christ be with you."

(We are intentional about bringing more peace into the world.)

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Welcome Song *You Are Welcome Here*

You are wel - come here, no mat ter who you are, no mat ter
where you are on life's jour - ney. You are wel come here,
no mat - ter who you are, come and
join with us, in our U - ni - ted Church of Christ.

Scripture Matthew 21:23-32 | The Message

Then Jesus was back in the Temple, teaching. The high priests and leaders of the people came up and demanded, "Show us your credentials. Who authorized you to teach here?"

Jesus responded, "First let me ask you a question. You answer my question and I'll answer yours. About the baptism of John - who authorized it: heaven or humans?"

They were on the spot and knew it. They pulled back into a huddle and whispered, "If we say 'heaven,' he'll ask us why we didn't believe him; if we say 'humans,' we're up against it with the people because they all hold John up as a prophet." They decided to concede that round to Jesus. "We don't know," they answered.

Jesus said, "Then neither will I answer your question.

"Tell me what you think of this story: A man had two sons. He went up to the first and said, 'Son, go out for the day and work in the vineyard.'

“The son answered, ‘I don’t want to.’ Later on, he thought better of it and went.

“The father gave the same command to the second son. He answered, ‘Sure, glad to.’ But he never went.

“Which of the two sons did what the father asked?”

They said, “The first.”

Jesus said, “Yes, and I tell you that crooks and others are going to precede you into God’s kingdom. John came to you showing you the right road. You turned up your noses at him, but the crooks and others believed him. Even when you saw their changed lives, you didn’t care enough to change and believe him.”

***Call to Worship**

One: We gather to ask: Where does our authority come from?

Many: From God, from one another, and from the responsibilities entrusted to us.

One: We come with our questions, our convictions, and our uncertainties.

Many: May we have the courage to model ourselves after Jesus - and thus say and do the things he said and did.

One: May we have the courage to examine what we believe and why.

Many: Jesus reminds us that our words matter - and so do our actions.

One: May our lives speak with integrity.

Many: Let us worship the One who calls us not merely to say what is right, but to live it.

One: May our hearts be changed, our lives renewed, and our allegiance grounded in love.

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

*Song Great is Your Faithfulness



1 Great is your faith - ful - ness, O God, Cre - a - tor,*
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring-time and har - vest,
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace so en - dur - ing,



with you no shad - ow of turn - ing we see.
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove,
 your own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide.



You do not change, your com - pas - sions they fail not;
 Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,



all of your good - ness for - ev - er will be.
 to your great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 bless - ings all mine with ten thou - sand be - side.

Refrain



Great is your faith-ful-ness! Great is your faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by



morn-ing new mer - cies I see; All I have need - ed your



hand has pro - vid - ed, Great is your faith - ful-ness, God, un - to me!

*Opening Prayer

Holy One, You are the source of all that is good and true. When we are confident, keep us humble. When we are uncertain, give us courage. When we are tempted to claim authority for ourselves, remind us that authority is a responsibility, not a possession. Help us examine the distance between what we say and what we do. Shape our hearts so that our actions reflect our deepest values. May our loyalty be rooted in love, our convictions tempered by compassion, and our lives increasingly aligned with Your way. Amen.

*Response *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.

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 caregivers will meet them at the door. Older children and youth will be led to Room 12 (lower level) for the Opening Session after Children's Time. Children from age 3 to 2nd grade will stay in Room 12, children from 3rd to 5th grade will go to Room 15, and youth from 6th to 12th grade will go to Room 16 for class. 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 *Weave*

Weave, weave, weave us to - geth - er. Weave us to ge - ther in
u - ni - ty and love. Weave, weave, weave us to - ge - ther. Weave us to - ge - ther, to -
ge - ther in love.

Scripture Matthew 21:23-32 (Common English Bible)

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and elders of the people came to him as he was teaching. They asked, "What kind of authority do you have for doing these things? Who gave you this authority?" Jesus replied, "I have a question for you. If you tell me the answer, I'll tell you

what kind of authority I have to do these things...

Where did John get his authority to baptize? Did he get it from heaven or from humans?"

They argued among themselves, "If we say 'from heaven,' he'll say to us, 'Then why didn't you believe him?' But we can't say 'from humans' because we're afraid of the crowd, since everyone thinks John was a prophet." Then they replied, "We don't know."

Jesus also said to them, "Neither will I tell you what kind of authority I have to do these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons. Now he came to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.'

"No, I don't want to,' he replied. But later he changed his mind and went.

"The father said the same thing to the other son, who replied, 'Yes, sir.' But he didn't go.

"Which one of these two did his father's will?"

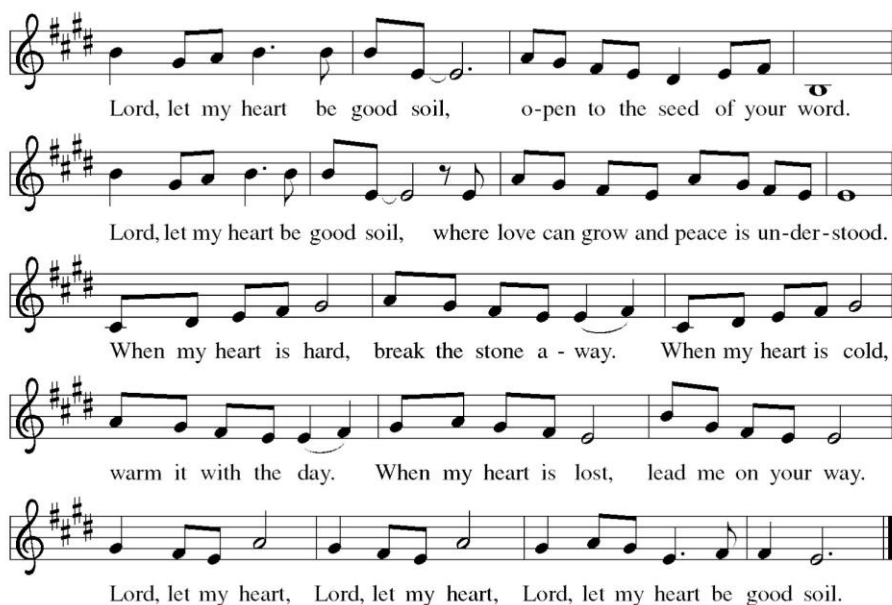
They said, "The first one."

Jesus said to them, "I assure you that tax collectors and prostitutes are entering God's kingdom ahead of you. For John came to you on the righteous road, and you didn't believe him. But tax collectors and prostitutes believed him. Yet even after you saw this, you didn't change your hearts and lives and you didn't believe him."

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon

Time of Prayer *Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil*



The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: 'Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word. Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood. When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold, warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way. Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.'

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People, Lord's Prayer

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

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

Offering Our Gifts to God



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

www.parkwayucc.org/giving

Offering Interlude *Jubilate Deo* - Michael Preatorius, (1571-1621)

*Jubilate Deo, omnis terrae,
Jubilate Deo, psalite laetitiam.*

Shout for joy to God, all the earth;
Shout for joy to God, sing psalms with gladness.

***Response** They'll Know We are Christians, v2-3



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.

Enslaved people encountered a Christianity profoundly contradictory. Enslavers used religion to reinforce obedience and social hierarchy, while Black Christians developed traditions that emphasized their own humanity, spiritual freedom, and direct relationship with God. Against this background, the repeated phrase "in my heart" lyrically can be understood as an affirmation of an interior spiritual life that no enslaver could fully control. The final verse, expresses the desire for a life in which one's outward actions and inward convictions are united, as it contrasts the oft omitted previous verse that expresses not wanting to be like Judas, devoted to following Jesus, but willing to betray him.

*Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, we offer these gifts as an expression of our commitment to your work in the world. May they become compassion made visible, justice put into action, and love that does more than speak. And as we give our resources, help us give ourselves as well - our time, our courage, our questions, and our willingness to change. May what we say we believe become evident in how we live. Amen.

*Song of Parting *Sounds of Living Harmony*

Words by Aria Thome (tune: *Come, Thou Fount of Ev'ry Blessing*)

1. By your love you split the waters when when we felt so at our
2. When the night grew e - ver dark - er there we saw the light you
3. Should we find a drought with - in us may your ri - vers flood our
end. Then our trust grew e - ver stron - ger held with - in your lov - ing
held. And when days grew so much lon - ger by your cloud we then were
souls. Lost and wand' - ring should you find us may our faith show where to
refrain
hands.
led. That my thoughts, words, deeds be on - ly filled in - ten - tions may they
go.
be! Voi - ces so filled with the Spir - it, sounds of Liv - ing Har - mo - ny.

*Benediction

*God's Light Goes Forth

*Music for Going Forth *All Creatures of our God and King*

From Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1623

Arranged for trumpet and organ by Jay Althouse | Trumpet - Tim Osiek

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

St Louis Metro CROP Hunger Walk ~ TODAY!

Sunday, September 27 | 1:30pm | 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) 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

Parkway Adventurers Off to Melvin Price Lock and Dam

Tuesday, September 29 | 9:45am carpool from Parkway UCC

The free tour begins at 11:00 am and we need to arrive around 10:45am. Since it is about an hour drive at that time of the morning we will need to leave the church at 9:45am. The tour itself takes about 45 minutes and there is some walking involved. We will dine at a fine dining establishment nearby. We need to make reservations as soon as possible so rsvp asap to Carol Cobb ~

Cobster70@gmail.com

** Please note that due to increased security measures, no bags or purses are allowed. All adults will need to show a valid driver's license, state id or military id*

The Longest Table Dinner

Wednesday, September 30 | 6-8pm | Dayspring Baptist Church

The Longest Table is less than a week away. Join us for an unforgettable evening of free food, fun, and connection at *The Longest Table* as we gather at Dayspring Baptist Church! Don't miss out on a free community meal and great conversation, youth belonging kits, teen quizzes and prizes, and a chance to meet the amazing neighbors who make our region home. Seats are filling up fast! Claim your spot at the table now. Visit www.stlsvp.org/the-longest-table. We hope to see you there!

Dayspring Baptist Church - 1001 Municipal Center Dr, StL 63131

Questions? Debbie Reinhardt deborahreinhardt@att.net

AMOE – Adventurous Men Out Early

Thursday, October 1, 2026 | 9:15am | Heritage Room

Some of the best conversations start with a cup of coffee. Confirm that's true and join the men of Parkway at AMOE this week.

Questions? Richard Scherrer 90fivetpr@gmail.com

Interfaith Intertwine – Faith 250, Havdalah and BAKLAVA!

Saturday, October 3, 2026 | 7pm | TASOM – 9201 Watson Rd Crestwood 63126

Mingle with our Muslim and Jewish friends at TASOM (Turkish American Society of Missouri) for an evening of conversation, learning, and community as we explore the role that different faith traditions have played in shaping America.

The evening will include Havdalah, a discussion on Faith 250 and faith contributions to America, perspectives from different faith communities, and small-group table conversations.

We'll also enjoy baklava and refreshments together during the discussions. People of all faiths and backgrounds are warmly welcome. We hope this evening creates an opportunity to learn from one another, build friendships, and celebrate the diverse faith communities that are part of the American story.

Please complete this form to RSVP. We look forward to seeing you!

Questions? Lisa Mason lmason624@sbcglobal.net or

Paige Penico andipaige@hotmail.com



There is a **Turkish Cooking Class** from 4-7pm at TASOM.

During this 3-hour hands-on cooking experience, we'll prepare, cook, and enjoy a delicious traditional Turkish meal together.

Menu: Beyti Kebab, Salad and Baklava

\$20 per person - collected the day of event, cash preferred.

Space is limited. Please contact kevin@parkwayucc.org for registration.

Family Friendship Lunch

Sunday, October 4, 2026 | after church | Parkway UCC playground

In the event of inclement weather, we will move the event to Fellowship Hall. As in the past, hot dogs, chips, and lemonade will be provided.

Please feel free to add to the meal and bring items your family and others will enjoy. The playground will be available, and we will have other activities as well! Questions? Kathy Burcham kathleenburcham@sbcglobal.net

Come Join TAD for Zoom Book Club of Troublesome Women

October 6 (1st & 3rd Tuesday) | 1:45pm fellowship | 2:00-3:00pm discussion

Zoom Link (312) 626-6799; Meeting ID: 898 7822 0593; Passcode: 393204

We'll start our next book on October 6th, *The Book Club for Troublesome Women* by Marie Bostwick. The book follows four suburban housewives in 1963 Northern Virginia who form an impromptu book club called "The Bettys"

after reading Betty Friedan's *The Feminine Mystique*. The book has 360+ pages, so we'll read around 120 pages every two weeks.

We'd love to have you join us on Zoom on October 6! 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

Parkway Cooks Swing into Action

As you may remember, after the May 2025 Tornado, many St. Louis residents in North St. Louis were made homeless. A group called 314 Oasis was formed through grants to help citizens with home repair advice, housing, and food. A group of Parkway UCC members volunteered to assist with some lunches for forty clients this fall. Including Linda Tossing, Kris McKenzie, Deborah Reinhardt, Diane Brost, Harold Cobb and myself. Our first day to provide a meal is **October 9**. We will gather at 9:30am in the Parkway kitchen to assemble some hearty sandwiches, sides, fruit, and, of course, brownies from our own Sweet Bakers.

Please join us in making sandwiches, slicing tomatoes, and putting lunches together in paper bags. A group will head down to their offices on Delmar to help serve around 10:50am. If you wish to help, we will need a case of bottled water, 40 bananas, 40 apples, 48 assortment of small bags of chips. If you can assist with any of these donations, please contact Carol Cobb ccjcobb@aol.com. We have some donations from Parkway members, but appreciate additional help. Other lunch prep days include Nov 13 and Dec 11.

Prayer Corner an opportunity to pray with someone

Saturday, October 10 | 8-10am | 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:

Tuesday, Nov 17 from 3-5p

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

Trunk or Treat ~ Save the date!

Saturday, October 17, 2026 | 5-6:30pm | Parkway UCC front parking lot

Join us for one of the most entertaining and fun-filled events at PUCC: Trunk or Treat! We need kids, youth & the young at heart to make the event a success. The goal is to have 25 car trunks and lots of candy.

Volunteers needed: greeters, game hosts, activity helpers, face painting, grilling/serving hot dogs, decorations for outside & inside, photographers and much, much more. There is a place for everyone who wants to help.

Rain plan: move inside to Fellowship Hall and Gathering Space.

Questions? Karen Mariani ksmariani59@gmail.com

Go AWOL this Fall - Adventurous Women Out Late

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

- 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

Coffee and Conversation at Panera

Tuesday, October 20 | 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:

Wednesday, November 11 at 10am

Monday, December 7 at 2pm

Wednesday, January 20 at 10am

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

DRAG Bingo for ONA Mission and Ministry

Saturday, October 24, 2026 | 6pm | Wydown United Church This event raises funds for the Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ and Alliance Q of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Open and Affirming Churches are invited to prepared gift baskets to donate to the Silent Auction - proceeds from the baskets will go to scholarship those attending the National Gathering of both organizations.

Register here: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/drang-queen-bingo--2026>. Cost: \$25.00 per person.

Please register each person individually with a distinct email address, as bingo cards will be emailed in advance. You may print your cards or bring them on your electronic device. Doors open at 6pm and program begins at 6:30pm. (Wydown United was formerly, First Congregational Church UCC and is located at 6501 Wydown Blvd in Clayton 63105)

WISE: A United Church of Christ Ministry

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

Our team will be reaching out to you with opportunities to participate in this journey. More to come!

Questions? Contact jogrove08@gmail.com; kevin@parkwayucc.org

Thanksgiving Circle

Hello Parkway! The weather is changing and we are starting to think about the fall holidays. Five area churches are collecting 10 different food items as part of **Circle of Concern's Thanksgiving Program**. This year, however, instead of packing each of the items in individual boxes, we are displaying all products in a special corner of our Pantry and allowing clients to make their own choices. The need is great in west St. Louis County, SNAP services are

being cut, grocery prices are extremely high and Circle is currently serving the highest number of families ever!

I am hoping for 100 of each of the items listed below, to be available to clients the week of November 8th. Therefore, all items will need to be brought to church by Saturday, November 7th! I will have plastic crates, marked COC Thanksgiving, by the food bins in the Gathering space. Thank you for once again for helping our neighbors in this way.

Items Requested: Canned pumpkin, cranberry sauce, canned fruit (pineapple, peaches, applesauce, mandarin oranges), chicken, turkey or vegetable broth (32-ounce carton), boxed stuffing mix, jar of turkey or chicken gravy, cornbread mix, box of instant potato flakes, canned green beans, canned corn. Questions? Lana Biondo lanabiondo66@gmail.com

Thanksgiving Isaiah 58 DRAG Bingo

Parkway has chosen to donate 25 can openers and 350 Gravy Packets (turkey, chicken, etc) to Isaiah 58 ministries in the City. We need to collect them by November 8th. Thanks for your support! Questions? Sally Dodge s.dodge@hotmail.com

Pen Pals Needed to Write LGBTQ Inmates in Missouri

The LGBTQ+ Faith Alliance is starting an initiative to write LGBTQ+ inmates in Missouri state prisons. The interfaith coalition, in response to news of trans inmates no longer having access to hormone replacements (HRT), this summer partnered with Black & Pink- description - an organization that advocates on behalf of incarcerated queer, trans, and HIV-positive individuals-and PROMO Missouri to write messages of encouragement. Dozens of inmates have asked for a pen pal. Learn more about becoming a pen pal to an LGBTQ+ inmate from our ONA Team via Debbie Reinhardt deborahreinhardt@att.net

Habitat for Humanity We Need Your Help

Habitat St. Louis has committed to the construction of 40 adjacent to the tornado affected area of St. Louis. We need finances to do these jobs and people to come and build them. We need managers to lead. Experience is not necessary. Habitat will find a job for you and train you to do it if needed. Be part of Parkway's long and productive history with Habitat for Humanity St. Louis. For more info on how you can help, contact our own Tom McKenzie mckenzie1947@att.net or go to <https://www.habitatstl.org/>

Planting Seeds Initiative

Hopefully, you have had a chance to review the materials for this initiative on contributing to Parkway's future. Materials about all of this are in the Gathering Space.

Questions: See Mark Sableman, Kris Impastato, or Sally Dodge at msableman@att.net, kristina.impastato@gmail.com, s.dodge@hotmail.com

Open & Affirming (ONA) ~ September

A monthly piece from our PUCC ONA Team committed to hospitality/inclusion

Hi, this is Pam Walker. I love being at Parkway UCC and I came because of the ONA status. I am a lesbian. I was not able to embrace my full identity until I was 30 years old because of my internalized homophobia, much of it as a result of my religious training. My wife and I had a marriage celebration here at PUCC 13 years ago and raised our seven children with the help of all of you wonderful people. Now some of my grandchildren attend.

I am able to be involved. I am a prayer chaplain, a choir member, a Sunday school teacher and I make some coffee. At any other church I might be allowed to make coffee and perhaps sing in the choir, although I'm not certain about that, and I could attend as long as I didn't really talk to anybody about my life. That's the difference ONA makes. I have many stories of being asked to leave churches or to attend, but not rock the boat by getting involved or having any leadership within the church, because I am lesbian. Parkway, on the other hand, celebrated our marriage before marriage was legal in Missouri. We got the legal part done in Iowa and came back for the Celebration, which was made possible by Parkway members.

My family first came to Parkway because we could be safe and accepted. My kids would not have to hide who their parents were or be embarrassed about it. Brenda and I could be open in our relationship and when our kids were baptized or confirmed, we both could stand with them. We could be a true family. ONA means open and affirming. It was a team formed, much like the WISE team, to investigate whether or not Parkway wanted to have that designation. It happened in 2007 and 2008 and my family came to Parkway initially in 2008 when I looked on the web and found a "gay, family friendly church" after once more being rejected by another local church.

One of the most difficult things about coming out in a LGBTQIA identity is that you're not just rejected by your larger culture, you're often rejected by your family, your friends and your church. When a person is in an ethnic minority at least they have the people in their family and their support system who stick with them and support them and take care of them.

For many queer people the opposite is true. When we come out, our families reject us, our church rejects us and society rejects us. What should be, and often feels like such a relief to own one's identity is now putting you in danger and breaking bonds with the people you love the most. The fact that suicide is four times more prevalent in the gay community is therefore no surprise.

This also explains the fact that young people, especially coming out into their identity as trans these past years have been in so much danger and under so much pressure. I personally know parents and grandparents in this congregation who have been so open, welcoming and LOVING toward their trans kids that they have joined the fight, held picket signs and supported them in every way. These parents have also felt the love and support of the church as they go through a re-orientation to their own children.

I think that's what church should be about!! That's why Parkway UCC is an ONA church and why the team still exists. We would love to have more people on our team who have a passion in this area and will welcome all ages, and interests, including our allies (who make up the majority of our current team).

YOUR GUIDE
TO VOTING WITH
CONFIDENCE ON
NOVEMBER 3RD

Tuesday, September 29 at 7 p.m.
At Congregation Shaare Emeth in the B'nai El Chapel
11645 Ladue Road, St. Louis, MO

The ballot for the upcoming election on November 3rd, contains several ballot measures that will have a major and long-lasting impact on our state.

Join us as Dr. David Eisenberg, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Chief of the Division of Complex Family Planning at WashU Medicine, Jon Schmid, ACLU-MO Policy Counsel, and League of Women Voters help us 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 issues BEFORE you cast your vote.

Register by September 28 at sestl.co/novemberballot

CONGREGATION
SHAARE • EMETh
Founded in 1867

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Prayer List

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

Celebrations

Reverend Gabriel Requadt - ordained here last Sunday. He and Shaine move tomorrow as he becomes pastor at Immanuel UCC, Sedalia.

Concerns

Nancy & Jack Litzinger - as they prepare for him to move to care ctr.

Evelyn Buretta - healing after fall and multiple broken bones in AZ.

Acacia Health Ctr at Sagewood; 4555 E Mayo Blvd; Phoenix AZ 85050

John/Joyce Ruiz Family - mourning his oldest brother; mem svc 9/14

Jean Mueller - healing after eye surgery.

Brady Abel - cancer surgery 9/30 (PUCC friend now UCC Rev in AZ).

Sharon Thiemann - cancer surgery last week (Litzinger).

Fam/friends of Barb McGrew - grieving/giving thanks (McMillon)

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.

Cindy and Ralf Wessel and family - grief.

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

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

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

Regina Santos Avila - that she feels love and light (Wagner-Muns).

Lorraine and Dick Lewis - healing, strength, stamina (Litzinger).

John "Pink" Floyd and family - as he receives cancer treatments.

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

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

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 & 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 - *Liberty Village*, 6955 State Route 162,

Room 302B, Maryville, IL 62062; 618-900-3624 [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.

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.

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.