





www.parkwayucc.org

October 11, 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 Jackie Eiffert.

Flowers given by Herb and Ruth Huebner in honor of citizens in poverty in North St. Louis North.

Treats provided by Ruth and Herb Huebner.

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

10/12 George Lestina

10/18 Matthew Stolze

Anniversaries

10/12 David and Marsha Peek

10/14 Andrew and Julie Simonson

10/14 Barbara and Kurt Oehler

18th Sunday *after* Pentecost

Sunday, October 11, 2026 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & YouTube Live

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

Prelude *Trio on BUNESSAN* - Gaelic

Arr: J. William Greene

Welcome Let us know you are here!

Meditation The Holy Spirit is a healing spirit. When the Holy Spirit is present, anything is possible. ~Reinhard Bonnke

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 Luke 10:25-37 | New Revised Standard Version Updated

An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself.” And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him, he was moved with compassion. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

***Call to Worship**

One: The Spirit of God is not confined by borders, traditions, or expectations.

Many: The Spirit is moving everywhere - and among everyone.

One: Let us be ready to notice - and ready to join in.

Many: Jesus teaches us to recognize our neighbor in unexpected people and places.

One: May we listen with open hearts, curious minds and courage.

Many: God is still speaking. We are doing what we can to listen and align.

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

***Song** *God is Still Speaking* by Jean Lersch
(tune: *Morning Has Broken*)

**God is still speaking, nighttime and morning,
Springtime and summer, winter and fall,
Look at God's order, harmonized Nature,
Planets in orbit heeding God's Call.**

**God is still speaking; hark to the needy,
Plight of the stricken, cries of the poor,
Prophets in scripture mandated mercy,
Everyone's welfare. Do more than mourn.**

**God is still speaking; learn from each other.
Seek Koinonia, sharing in love.
Fellowship guiding, powered by Spirit,
Fashioned in Christ's life, signed by the Dove.**

***Opening Prayer**

Holy One, open our hearts to the movements of your Spirit. As you were already at work in Samaria, remind us that you are already at work in people and places we may intentionally ignore or inadvertently overlook.

Lead us into the humility to listen, the curiosity to learn, and the courage to build relationships across faiths and differences. Help us recognize your voice in one another.

Amen.

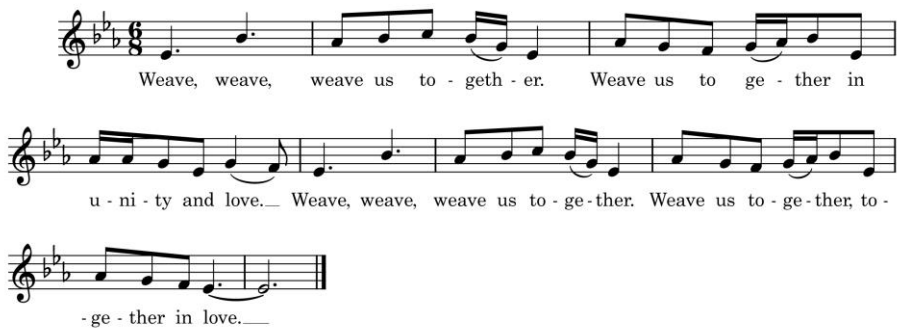
*Response *Dream God's Dream*



Dream God's dream! Ho - ly Spi - rit, help us dream of a world where there is
jus - tice and where ev - 'ry one is free, to build and grow and love, and to
sim - ply have e - nough. The world will change, when we dream God's dream.

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. ____

New Testament Scripture Acts 8:14-17 | Common English Bible (CEB)
When word reached the apostles in Jerusalem that Samaria had accepted God's word, they commissioned Peter and John to go to Samaria. Peter and John went down to Samaria where they prayed that the new believers would receive the Holy Spirit. (This was because the Holy Spirit had not yet fallen on any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) So Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon

Time of Prayer *Standing in the Need of Prayer*



1. Not my sib - lings, nor my nib - lings, but it's me, O God,
2. Not my par - ents, nor my el - ders, but it's me, O God,
3. Not the stran - ger, nor my neigh - bor, but it's me, O God,



stand - ing in the need of prayer; Not my sib - lings, nor my nib - lings, but it's
 stand - ing in the need of prayer; Not my par - ents, nor my el - ders, but it's
 stand - ing in the need of prayer; Not the stran - ger, nor my neigh - bors, but it's



me, O God, stand - ing in the need of prayer.
 me, O God, stand - ing in the need of prayer.
 me, O God, stand - ing in the need of prayer.



It's me, it's me, O God, stand - ing in the need of prayer; It's



me, it's me, O God, stand - ing in the need of prayer.

Pastoral Prayer

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer sung to the tune by Nate Stout



Our Fa - ther who art in hea - ven, hal - lo - wed be thy name.____

Thy king - dom come thy will be done, on earth as it is in hea - ven.

Give us this day our dai - ly bread and for - give us our debts as we for - give our

deb - tors, and lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion but de -

- li - ver us from e - vil, for Thine is the kin - dom, the

po - wer and the glo - ry for - e - ver. A - - - men.

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 *Alleluia* - William Boyce

*Response *Old Hundredth*

**Praise God whose breath fills all the earth
Whose love reveals our sacred worth
Whose Spirit forms one family
Whose grace brings peace and harmony. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication

Generous God, receive these gifts and use them for Your work in the world. Give us not only generosity with our resources, but generosity of spirit - the willingness to listen, learn, and build bridges. Help us recognize that your Spirit is already moving among our neighbors and throughout our interfaith community. Make us receptive to your voice and ready to join what You are doing. Amen.

***Song of Parting** *God is Still Speaking* by Robert A. Lewis
(tune: *This is My Father's World*)

God spoke in ages past
To call forth and create
A universe that is diverse,
A world both good and great.
God spoke in ages past
To seek and to redeem;
And those who heard God's holy Word
Have shared and served God's dream.

God's Word has come to us
In story and in song;
A company of people free,
To God we now belong.
God's Word has come to us
Through scripture, font, and meal,
That we may know and tell and show
God's work all ills to heal.

God spoke in ages past
And God is speaking still;
By day and night more truth and light
Break forth to show God's will.
Yes, God is speaking still
To promise and to call;
In covenant we're called and sent
To speak to one and all.

Go now and speak God's Word,
Proclaim God's message true;
Let all be told, both young and old,
That God makes all things new.
Go now and speak God's Word,
Proclaim to all the earth;
By word and deed meet human need,
Show forth the gospel's worth.

***Benediction**

***God's Light Goes Forth**

***Music for Going Forth** *TERRA BEATA - English Folk Melody*
Arr: Benjamin Kolodziej

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

Speaker Series October features two popular past speakers

TODAY ~ Sunday, October 11 | 11:15am-12:15pm | Heritage Room

“An Insider’s Insights about Asbestos Litigation,” By Attorney Ray Fournie.

Asbestos litigation is the longest-running mass tort in U.S. history, dating back to the late 1960s. Today, there are 600,000 asbestos claims pending and more than 40,000 new claims filed every year. While the vast majority of workers exposed to asbestos may never contract an asbestos-related illness, when illness does occur it can arise decades after exposure. It is estimated that asbestos claims may continue for another 50 years.

You’ve seen the TV commercials featuring lawyers beseeching victims of asbestos exposure to call them and realize justice through compensation.

But beyond that what is the straight scoop, the real truth?

Our speaker, attorney Ray Fournie, has the answers and has developed a deep understanding about the subject as a decades-long insider, defending industry in asbestos litigation. He knows the history, the legal landscape, the medical diseases attributed to asbestos, the economics, and everything in between.

This is history brought to our Speakers Series audience in the first person.

Now retired, Ray’s legal skills have been recognized through such awards as “Best Lawyer in Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions,” and The Best Lawyers in America (2007-Present, and Who’s Who in American Law.

Sunday, October 25 | 11:15am-12:15pm | Heritage Room

“I Hike, Therefore I Am ~ Chapter 3,” by Savannah Bluejski.

Welcome back Savannah. Our youthful trekker returns to the Speakers Series podium to recount her thrilling hiking adventures. Our faithful subscribers will remember her last visit, when she spoke about her adventures on the Appalachian Trail. The "Big Three" long-distance hiking trails in the United States, often called the Triple Crown of Hiking, are the Appalachian Trail, the Pacific Crest Trail, and the Continental Divide Trail (CDT). Savannah's quest for adventure has now taken her on the CDT, which is 3,100 miles long and runs from the Mexico border to Canada through New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana, follows the Rocky Mountains, and is the longest of the big three.

All Speaker Series programs are held in the Heritage Room following worship. Grab a cup of coffee and a treat and join us.

Questions or comments, contact Richard Scherrer 90fivetpr@gmail.com

Tuesday Evening Dialogue *How to Read a Book*

Tuesday, October 13 | 6pm in person; 6:45pm Zoom | Heritage Room; Zoom
Please join us this Tuesday for our first session of our next book *How to Read a Book* by Monica Wood. This novel follows the journey of three characters: Violet, Frank and Harriet and their converging paths. The author explores the effects of incarceration, the healing power of books and the importance of forgiveness of self and others. We will cover this book in three sessions and will be discussing up to Chapter 13 "Harriet" (page 94) on October 13. TED meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday in the Heritage Room. Pot luck dinner starts at 6 pm and the book discussion starts at 7pm. If you can't join us in person, you are welcome to attend on Zoom which starts at 6:45 pm. Please join us at 6pm for Potluck Supper followed by Book Discussion at 7pm. Contact Helen Race at raceh@att.net with questions.

ZOOM LINK:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84944039731?pwd=ozUOvAjuiGPmKEpn2Jygo8gIAeDxoy.1> > Meeting ID: 849 4403 9731 > Passcode: 792617

Trunk or Treat

Saturday, October 17 | 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
Sign up to help here – *it takes a village!* Thank you/
<https://pucc.onechurchsoftware.com/public/forms/108>

Go AWOL this Fall - Adventurous Women Out Late

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

- Friday 10/23: Movie Night in the Heritage Room
- Friday 11/06: Dinner out
- Sunday 12/13: Allegro Concert - 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

Come Join TAD for Zoom *Book Club of Troublesome Women*

October 20 (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 as we continue our discussion of *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*. We'll discuss chapters 12 - 25 on the 20th. We'd love to have you join us on Zoom! 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

Interfaith Partnership STL Annual Dinner

Thursday, October 22 | 6-8:30pm | St Nicholas Family Life Center, S Forty Dr

Since 1992, thousands of people have gathered at our Annual Dinner and Celebration to magnify our region's vibrant interfaith community, renew commitments to one another, and invest in the bridge-building efforts of IPSTL.

Each year IP honors one or two members of the interfaith community for their steadfast commitment to deepening relationships across lines of difference. As awardees, these individuals are recognized for bravely bringing people together, for actively building an interfaith community that is responsive and resilient, for working towards collective transformation, and for being a friend to many.

This year's theme: **Woven Together** ~ *Threads of Compassion and Hope*.

All proceeds support the activities and service projects of Interfaith Partnership of Greater St. Louis who has earned the *Platinum Seal of Transparency*.

For more information or to register *today*, please visit IP's website:

<https://interfaithstl.org/annual-celebration/>

[FYI: Our Kevin Cameron serves on the IP Board in his elected seat and on the IP Cabinet of religious leaders - representing Phil Hodson, our Missouri Mid-South's *Intentional Interim Conference Minister*.]

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)

Align with PUCC! New Member Sunday

Sunday, October 25 | 10am | New Sanctuary

Our church family is constantly changing. People come and go. Babies are born. Children grow up. People commit themselves to one another. Loved ones and friends among us come to the end of their lives. Individuals move into our community and church life. Others leave us, moving away to new places, new experiences, new opportunities. It is with joy and gratitude that we welcome new members into our worship, work and witness at Parkway UCC - in person or virtually. Membership at Parkway UCC could be the next step in your ongoing relationship with God and with other people of faith - though membership is not expected and certainly isn't necessary to be involved in worship, baptism, communion, weddings, funerals or other aspects of church life. As a church member, you have the opportunity to more intentionally grow personally, find a sense of belonging, form lifelong friendships, experience the joy of Christ, discover your spiritual gifts, become more intimate with God, develop your personal prayer style, expand your boundaries, become more Christ-like and more. With our congregational democratic polity, as a church member, you have a voice and vote within our church to weigh in on topics such as the annual budget, church vision, building decisions and more. If this is something you might be interested in, please reach out to Kevin in person, by phone or email kevin@parkwayucc.org; 314-872-9330.

Eat Pizza & Raise Dough for CROP at Dewey's Pizza

Tuesday, October 27 | 4-9pm | 736 N Ballas Rd Creve Coeur MO 63141

Dine in or carry out! Mention *Give Back Night* when ordering. Twenty percent of the sales will be donated to CROP/CHURCH WORLD SERVICE to address hunger and poverty - globally and locally. All orders must mention *Give Back Night* in order for CROP to benefit. Thank you for putting your faith into action. Questions? Sue Moellering susieqslp@sbcglobal.net

Thanksgiving Isaiah 58

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

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

A Taste of Turkey - Cooking Class

Sunday, November 1 | 1-4pm | TASOM - 9201 Watson Rd, Crestwood 63126
TASOM Cooking Classes are back! Cooking classes were temporarily paused while they completed their move into their new TASOM building. Now that the move is complete, they're excited to restart classes and welcome interfaith friends into their beautiful new space! Come experience their new home, where food, culture, and community come together.

Menu: *Beyti Kebab, Salata and Baklava!*

Spaces are limited, so reserve your spot today and be part of this for \$25
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/authentic-turkish-cooking-class-a-cultural-experience-tickets-2002852452601?aff=oddtcreator>

Questions? Reach out to kevin@parkwayucc.org

St. Louis STORYTELLING Festival

StL Storytelling Festival: A Boy and a Diva with Archy Jamjun

Friday, November 13, 2026 | 7-8pm | Gathering Space at PUC

PFLAG and the LGBTQ+ Faith Alliance partner to present an evening with Archy Jamjun, curator of Outspoken LGBTQ stories at Sidetrack in Chicago. Archy will share a funny and heartwarming look at his coming-out story and the iconic divas who provided the soundtrack. The performance is for adults and will be followed by Q&A and refreshments. RSVP is appreciated but not required. Questions? Ready to RSVP? Contact Debbie Reinhardt deborahreinhardt@att.net

Circle of Concern's Thanksgiving Program

Five area churches are collecting 10 different food items as part of. 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!

Goal: 100 of each of the items listed below. All items need to be at church by Saturday, November 7th and placed in the 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, apple sauce, mandarin oranges), chicken/turkey/vegetable broth (32oz 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

Pen Pals Needed to Write LGBTQ Inmates in Missouri

The LGBTQ+ Faith Alliance is writing to LGBTQ+ inmates in Missouri prisons. The interfaith coalition, in response to news of trans inmates no longer having access to hormone replacements (HRT), has 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**

Alzheimer's News

The "Walk to End Alzheimer's" event is Saturday, October 31 at the Chesterfield Amphitheater, 631 Veterans Place Drive. On-site registration opens at 8am. The Opening and Promise Garden Ceremony is at 10am. The Walk is to follow in Central Park around the lake. Everything is outside. The Parkway team should meet at the Veteran's Honor Park (under the flags) at 9:30am so we can do this together.

Parkway team [donations](#) can be made on-line or checks given to Joyce Ruiz and she will send them in. Please make checks payable to: Alzheimer's Association.

Please [register](#) on-line at www.alz.org to join the Parkway UCC team. For more details on current and future Alzheimer's research, visit alz.org/Research. You can learn more by going to www.alz.org/help-support/resources or the Alzheimer's Helpline which is accessible 24/7 via 800-272-3900 and staffed by master's level clinicians to assist with crisis situations, decision making, and disease information. Tools and support are also available in Spanish.

Want to learn more about the Alzheimer's Association and what they do here in St. Louis? Visit www.alz.org and/or contact PUCC's Faith Outreach Ambassador with the Alzheimer's Association, Joyce Ruiz at joyceruiz7@gmail.com

Signs! Signs! Everywhere There's Signs!

You have noticed signs in front of PUCC encouraging people to "Vote No on 3." This decision was unanimously approved by our Church Council.

The United Church of Christ has a long history of supporting reproductive freedom and access to healthcare, including abortion. It comes down to the belief that people should be trusted to make deeply personal healthcare decisions with their doctors, their families, and according to their own faith and conscience.

Amendment 3 goes beyond abortion. A "yes" vote would repeal the reproductive healthcare protections Missouri voters approved in 2024. It would also impact gender-related care for minors.

As an *Open and Affirming* congregation, we believe that caring about dignity, personal autonomy, and access to appropriate healthcare includes our transgender neighbors and young people, too.

Putting signs in front of our church is one way we can make our values visible in our community. It isn't about telling everyone what they must believe. It's about being honest about what we believe and what we feel called to stand for.

And separation of church and state doesn't mean churches have to remain silent about public policy. It means the government doesn't impose the beliefs of one religion on everyone else. In fact, an interfaith partner approached us with the request to put up the sign. As people of faith, we can speak about the values that guide us and advocate for the policies we believe reflect those values while respecting that others may come to different conclusions. This is part of what it means for us to live out our faith through ***Limitless Love, Courageous Action, and Spirited Inquiry.***

Contact Barb Harris, Council President (barbharris@charter.net) or Kevin Cameron, Pastor (kevin@parkwayucc.org) if you have questions or comments.

Parkway UCC, 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.

Limitless Love: Just as God's love knows no boundaries, our love and care extend to all of God's children. We are an inclusive community and engage in interfaith partnerships to grow in love and widen our welcome.

Courageous Action: We believe that following Christ's example means taking action to advocate for and support those in pain or in need. God calls us to oppose injustice and create *a just world for all.*

Spirited Inquiry: We seek spiritual nourishment through open-minded inquiry, not prescribed doctrines. We value questioning and respect varied beliefs, appreciating both ancient scriptures and contemporary wisdom. *God is still speaking.*

The Compassionate Life

People ask Jesus questions for a variety of reasons. Sometimes they want to seek answers or ideas. They want to know more about themselves and their place in Christ's kin-dom. They want to hear Jesus' teachings and stories. And sometimes, they just want to trick Jesus, or trip him up. They want to ask him a question with no answer.

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

After this exchange, Jesus asks a question that those gathered cannot answer, about the nature of humanity and divinity. Question and answer exchanges are part of living and loving. We honor those institutions connected with the United Church of Christ where questions are welcome not as a barrier to faith, but as a sign of it.

There are 48 educational institutions related to the United Church of Christ, including academies, colleges, universities, and seminaries. They span the United States. Each is independent, self-governing, and fully accredited.

Each institution, including Eden Theological Seminary down the road in Webster Groves; Drury University in Springfield, MO; Elmhurst University outside of Chicago; and LeMoyne-Owen College in Memphis, TN expresses partnership with the church. Closely related schools participate as full members of the *UCC Council for Higher Education*. Others are historically related, which means they recognize a past relationship with the church but are not full members of the Council.

These institutions provide opportunities to explore moral values, the importance of social responsibility, an ethic of service, and the ability to think critically. Many have campus ministries that are ecumenical and interfaith. Each embodies the UCC ethos where *God is Still Speaking*.

Learn more and see the complete list of full, related and historic educational settings in our United Church of Christ by visiting:

<https://www.ucc.org/about/higher-education/>

Prayer List

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

Celebrations

October foci: Hispanic Heritage; Breast Cancer; Books; Emotional Wellness; LGBTQ+ History; ADHD Awareness

Concerns

Family/friends of Pat Owens - as they grieve and give thanks for her.
Marilyn McDougall - home after being hospitalized all last week.
Nancy & Jack Litzinger - as he settles into care center by *The Willows*.
Evelyn Buretta - healing after fall and multiple broken bones in AZ.
Acacia Health Ctr at Sagewood; 4555 E Mayo Blvd; Phoenix AZ 85050
Mark McKenzie - healing and refreshment (Tom's brother).
Gibson Family - grieving two family deaths by suicide (Sieber).
Matthew and Tiffany - as they sort through his many medical challenges and find a path forward with family support (Thomé).
Brady Abel - recent cancer surgery (PUCC friend; now UCC Rev in AZ).
Lindsey - parenting 4 with Brent; lung cancer diagnosis (Schmelig).
Trans inmates in MO prisons who are denied gender-affirming care.
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).
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.
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 Ververlo - 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]
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.

Boundarled Love

Vicki Kemper

Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that. - Ephesians 5:2 (MSG)

Is it just me, or does Christ's love sound a little, um, unhealthy?

Is it just Jesus, or do all of us who've been taught to give of ourselves like Jesus did need to learn something about boundaries?

Is it just a matter of 21st-century psychobabble muddling the first-century gospel, or have we managed to turn the gospel of liberation and love into a spiritualized prescription for burnout?

What do you think?

I think there's a fine line between extravagant love and self-abasement, a delicate distinction between joyful service and soul-sapping obligation. Not that we shouldn't aspire to love as purely as Jesus did, but I wonder if we shouldn't be more honest about how difficult and dangerous that is.

We should encourage each other to learn to say "no." We need to equip one another to listen for Spirit's voice, discern the difference between what needs doing and what is ours to do, and consider what it means to love ourselves as well as we love others.

Jesus was not without boundaries. He was forever stepping away from the crowds to be with God. He said some pretty jarring things about how his holy call impacted his obligations to biological family. Until the very end, he set limits and maintained his dignity.

Setting boundaries can make us feel guilty, and our boundaries may disappoint and hurt the people we love. But not having any boundaries harms us all.

Prayer: *Holy One, may I love you as faithfully as Jesus did, love my neighbor as myself, and love myself as tenderly as you do. Amen.*

Consider signing up to receive these UCC daily devotions from our God is Still Speaking writers if you don't already:

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

