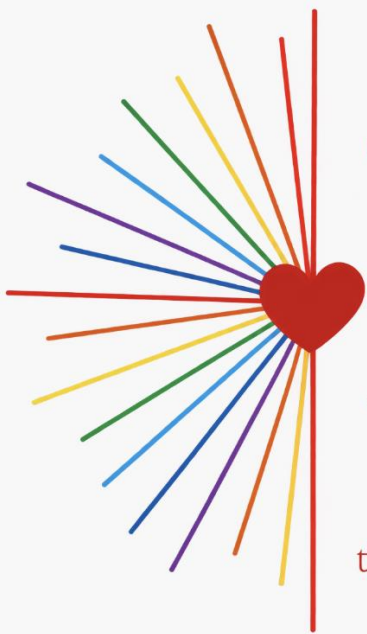




THERE OUR HEARTS WILL BE

“Where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also...”

- Matthew 6:21



www.parkwayucc.org

October 25, 2026

Contents

- 3 Birthdays and Anniversaries
- 4 10:00am Worship
- 10 Announcements
- 18 Prayer List

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

2841 North Ballas Road | St. Louis, MO 63131 | 314-872-9330 [p] | 314-872-9014 [fax]
parkwayucc.org | contact@parkwayucc.org

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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. Our Nursery for children under 3 is open from 8:50am-12:20pm in Room 6. (This time frame spans *choir practice, worship* and *Speaker Series*.)

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 Nancy Litzinger.

Flowers given by the Moellering Family in honor of the birthday of Jane Biehl, Sue's sister.

Treats provided by Nancy Litzinger.

Our Prayer Chaplain this morning is Kari Borgmann.



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

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

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Mental Health Support

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

Birthdays

10/25 Meera Williams
10/26 Lexie Jackson-Johnson
10/26 John Nourse
10/29 Daniel Clifford
10/29 Chiwala Kaloto

Anniversaries

10/28 Andy and Kris Impastato
11/01 Joan and Steve Degroote

18th Sunday *after* Pentecost

Sunday, October 25, 2026 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & YouTube Live

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

Prelude A Metamorphosis on *It is Well*

Cassie Rosenberger, flute

Welcome Let us know you are here!

Meditation To love without condition, to talk without intention, to give without reason, to care without expectation... that's the spirit of true love. ~Fcradhakrishna

Passing the Peace of Christ *May the peace of Christ be with you.*

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Welcome Song *Gather Us In* #2236, **v1** | [blue songbook](#)

Here in this place new light is stream-ing,
now is the dark - ness van - ished a - way,
see in this space our fears and our dream-ings,
brought here to you in the light of this day. ____
Gath-er us in — the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in — the
blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en,
we shall a - rise at the sound of our name. ____

Scripture Matthew 22:34-40 | New Revised Standard Updated (NRSVue)
When the Pharisees heard that Jesus 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.”

***Call to Worship**

One: We gather as people of faith, rooted in a tradition that is always being reformed.

Many: We come ready to question, to learn, and to grow in love.

One: Jesus calls us to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Many: The Holy Spirit keeps moving, even beyond the boundaries we have drawn.

One: On this Reformation Sunday, may we have the courage to let go of what no longer serves love and embrace what brings life to the world.

Many: We come to reform our hearts, renew our faith, and be led in the ways of love.

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

*Song *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*



1. A might - y for - tress is — our God, a safe - ty ne - ver
 2. Did we think that we were a lone, to - geth - er we're made
 3. And though this world with lies — are filled, told simp - ly to un -
 4. That Word be - yond all tem - poral pow'rs, for - e - ver is a -



fail - - ing. Our pre - sent help — a mid — the floods whose
 strong - er. Let's not for - get — our Cor - ner Stone, who
 - do — us. We will not fear — for God — has willed, the
 - bi - - ding. The Spir - it and — Her gift — are ours, for



wat - ers seem pre - vail - ing. We see our task at hand. We
 bears us up much long - er. You ask who may this be? Christ
 truth be spok - en through - us. Yet at this ve - ry hour, we
 Christ with us is sid - - ing. Let good and kin - dred go, to -



know that we must stand a - gainst all that di - vides, our
 Je - sus sets us free by giv - ing us each day, in
 speak your truth to pow'r, their ways we can en - dure, for
 - geth - er in the throws, As Cea - sar lies each day, he

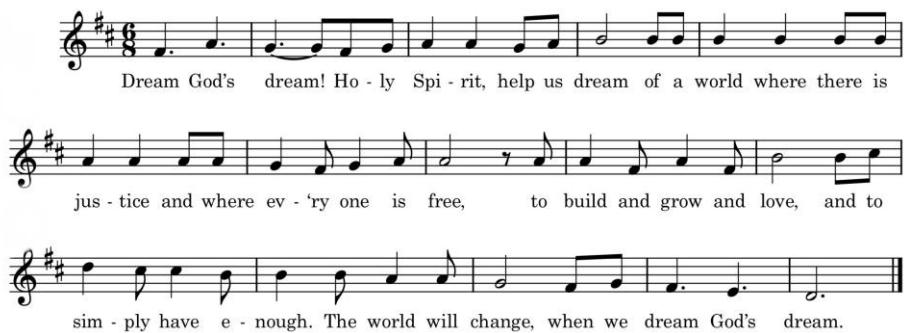


deeds they will u - nite, God's love shall light all sha - - dows.
 count - less, end - less ways, the gifts we need to love — all.
 yes, we know for sure, a bright - er day is prom - ised.
 reigns less by the day. Our vote is cast for lov - - ing.

*Opening Prayer

God, we are grateful for all who have gone before us, challenging old assumptions and opening new paths of faith. On this Reformation Sunday, remind us that the church is never finished growing into your vision for the world. Jesus, teach us again what matters most: loving you and loving our neighbors. Holy Spirit, surprise us as you surprised the believers in Acts, moving among people others might have excluded. Give us courage to ask questions, humility to change our minds, and hearts open to recognize you in unexpected places. May our faith be more than traditions; may it become love made visible in our lives. Amen.

*Response *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 *Love Canon ~ The Gospel in One Word is Love*



Reception of New Members

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 today!

Questions of the Candidates

Parkway UCC Purpose Statement

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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, and worship, sacraments, responsibilities and blessings of participation in our open and affirming congregation.

Question About Participation

Welcome and Reception

One: Let us, the members of Parkway United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

Many: **We welcome you with joy into the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of Jesus.**

Greeting of Christian Love

Sponsors: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of Parkway United Church of Christ, we extend to you the hand of Christian love, welcoming you into the family of this local church.

Prayer

Gifts from the Church

Response *Blest Be the Tie that Binds* #438, **v1, 3** | red hymnal



1. Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Chris-tian love:
2. Be - fore our Ma - kcr's throne We pour our ar - dent prayers;
3. We share our mu - tual woes, Our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
4. From sor - row, toil, and pain, And sin we shall be free;



The fel - low - ship of kin - dred minds Is like to that a - bove.
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, Our com-forts and our cares.
And of - ten for each oth - er flows The sym - pa - thiz-ing tear.
And per - fect love and friend-ship reign Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Scripture Acts 10:44-48 | Common English Bible (CEB)

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell on everyone who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. They heard them speaking in other languages and praising God. Peter asked, “These people have received the Holy Spirit just as we have. Surely no one can stop them from being baptized with water, can they?” He directed that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited Peter to stay for several days.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon

Time of Prayer *Lord, I Want to Be A Christian* #372, v1-2 | red hymnal

1. Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian In - a my heart, in - a my heart,
2. Lord, I want to be more lov - ing In - a my heart, in - a my heart,
3. Lord, I want to be more ho - ly In - a my heart, in - a my heart,
4. Lord, I want to be like Je - sus In - a my heart, in - a my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian In - a my heart.
Lord, I want to be more lov - ing In - a my heart.
Lord, I want to be more ho - ly In - a my heart.
Lord, I want to be like Je - sus In - a my heart.
In - a my heart, In - a my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian In - a my heart.
Lord, I want to be more lov - ing In - a my heart.
Lord, I want to be more ho - ly In - a my heart.
Lord, I want to be like Je - sus In - a my heart.

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

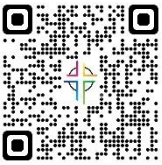
deb - tors, and lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion but de -

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

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

Stewardship Moment *There Our Hearts Will Be*

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 *Where Your Treasure Is* Cassie Rosenberger, flute

Refrain:



Where your trea - sure is, there your heart shall be, all that

you pos - sess will ne - ver set you free. Seek the things that last. Come and

learn from me. Where your trea - sure is your heart shall be.

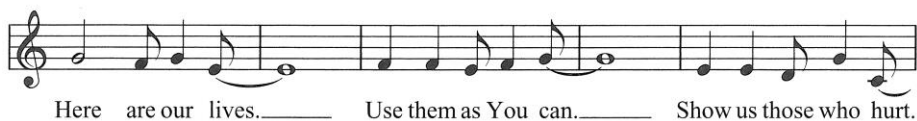
What do you gain from all your worry?
 What you should eat or what to wear?
 There is no peace in stress or hurry.
 Do you not know that you are held within God's care? *Refrain*

Look at the ravens high above you.
 They do not work their whole life through.
 And yet God feeds them and protects them.
 So how much more will God protect and care for you? *Refrain*

Behold the lilies in their splendor,
 In grace and beauty are they dressed.
 And yet so soon their bloom is faded.
 So how much more to those who look to God be blessed? *Refrain*

Do not fear little flock, for God delights to give you the reign of God.
 Give your possessions to the needy; gain a treasure that will not fade. *Refrain*

*Response Here Are Our Hearts



*Prayer of Dedication

Generous God, we bring these gifts as an expression of our love for you and our neighbors. May they become food for the hungry, welcome for the stranger, hope for the weary, and justice for those pushed aside. As you continue to reform your church, reform our generosity, too. Free us from the fear of not having enough and the temptation to keep your blessings to ourselves. Help us build a community where the Spirit is welcomed, love crosses boundaries, and everyone has a place at the table. May these gifts, and the lives we offer alongside them, serve your transforming love in the world. In the name of Jesus, who teaches us to love, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, who keeps making all things new. Amen.

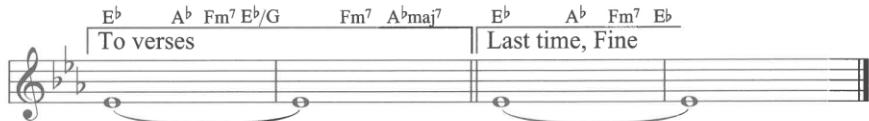
*Song of Parting *Draw the Circle Wide*



Draw the cir-cle_ wide. Draw it wid-er still. Let this be our_



song, no one stands a-lone, stand-ing side by side, draw the cir-cle_



wide. Last time, Fine



1. God the still - point of the cir - cle, 'round whom all cre -
 2. Let our hearts touch far hor - i - zons, so en - com - pass
 3. Let the dreams we_ dream be larg - er, than we've ev - er



- a - tion turns; noth - ing lost, but
 great and small; let our lov - ing
 dreamed be - fore; let the dream of



held for - ev - er in God's gra - cious arms.
 know no bor - ders, faith - ful to God's call.
 Christ be in us, o - pen ev - 'ry door.

*Benediction

*God's Light Goes Forth

*Music for Going Forth *The Simplicity of SIMPLE GIFTS*

Appalachian

Cassie Rosenberger, flute

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

There Our Hearts Will Be – 2027 Pledge Campaign

The Stewardship Commission announces the 2027 Pledge Campaign!

We will have a Commitment Festival directly after the worship service today in the Gathering Space. Please join us as we celebrate Parkway UCC and learn more about what it means to be part of the excitement of being part of Parkway!



Questions? Contact Linda Tossing ltossing@att.net

Speaker Series

TODAY ~ 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

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

Tuesday Evening Dialogue *How to Read a Book*

Tuesday, October 27 | 6pm in person; 6:45pm Zoom | Heritage Room; Zoom

Please join us on Tuesday Oct 27 for our second session discussing *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, finding a

family and the importance of forgiveness of self and others. We are covering this book in three sessions and will cover through "Violet" on 10/27 (p. 191). TED meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday in the Heritage Room. Potluck dinner starts at 6pm 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. Questions? Contact Helen Race at raceh@att.net

ZOOM LINK:

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

Shine Your Light: Information on MO State Amendment 7.

On October 14, our Church Council authorized a new team entitled **Shine Your Light**. Through explanations and action suggestions in response to local, state, and national political issues, this team intends to be a catalyst toward a just world, consistent with our mission as a church. We are seeking a few members to guide this effort; If interested contact Ruth Huebner at ruthhuebner@hotmail.com

As the November 3rd elections approach, please consider your position on one of the Missouri ballot items: *Issue Amendment 7*

<https://www.senate.mo.gov/26info/pdf-bill/tat/SJR95.pdf>

Ballot Language: *Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to establish a permanent public endowment fund to support state government instead of taxing Missouri residents, prohibit the General Assembly from appropriating or diverting the fund, and eliminate state-imposed taxes once the fund generates sufficient revenue to replace them?*

Analysis: This is a rework of Amendment 5 from the August 4 Primary Election that was defeated by 80% of voters in Missouri. The ballot language implies a tax cut and proposes an endowment fund. The General Assembly has the power to set up a public endowment fund and cut taxes without voter approval. However, Amendment 7 states: "the General Assembly shall retain full authority to appropriate funds from any lawful source and to enact legislation establishing or increasing taxes or other revenues as necessary". Like Amendment 5, Amendment 7 will allow MO legislators to raise taxes without voter approval. This amendment increases the opportunity for bribery of legislators and shifts the burden of taxes from the wealthy to the poor.

Suggested Action: Please Vote on or Before November 3.

Your Voting Plan on or before Tuesday, November 3

Let us know if you need help with your plan to vote this election season.

Election Night Communion

Tuesday, November 3 | 7pm | Webster UMC - 600 N Bompert WG 63119

All are welcome and encouraged to gather at Webster United Methodist to worship and to celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion together. This service is a collaboration of Maplewood, Unity, Webster, Lafayette Park, and Grace United Methodist Churches, and it is open to all. The Church is called to be a community of resistance and refuge, and the unity of the sacrament is stronger than the toxic animosity of an election. So go to the polls, then come to the table. Questions? Debbie Reinhardt deborahreinhardt@att.net

All Saints Day

Sunday, November 1 | 10am Worship in the Historic Sanctuary

Join us across the street next Sunday for worship in our Historic Sanctuary. Please consider bringing a photo of a loved one or a small item of remembrance to place on the table up front during the service. We will remember, give thanks and carry on the important work that our forbearers started as Parkway UCC was born in 1838.

Go AWOL! Adventurous Women Out Late

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

Friday 11/06: Dinner out - more details to come

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

Wednesday, November 11 | 10am | Panera: 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, December 7 at 2pm Wednesday, January 20 at 10am

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

TAD's Final Zoom on *The Book Club for Troublesome Women*

November 3 (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, November 3rd, as Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue (TAD) has its final 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 26 - the end of the book, and anything else from the book that participants want to discuss. We'd love to have you join us on Zoom on November 3rd! Feel free to stop in at 1:45 for fellowship before the book discussion starts. We'd love to have you join us on Zoom! For more info, reach out to Jackie Eiffert

jeiffert2@gmail.com

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. UPDATE: we need 125 more gravy packets and 10 more can openers by November 8. 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 jogroveo8@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

A Stewardship of Song *Finding Your Voice, Finding Your Community*

At Parkway, limitless love, courageous action, and spirited inquiry come alive when we raise our voices together. Our choir is more than a musical ensemble; it is a community within our community, where we learn, laugh, grow, and experience God's presence together through song.

You may think you do not have experience reading music, possess any formal training, or even think of yourself as a singer. Lay all that down. All you need is an open heart, a willingness to learn, and a little courage to try.

Join us on the first Sunday of any month without attending a Thursday rehearsal, or become part of our Thursday evening choir family, singing on the second and fourth Sundays. There is no pressure to commit, and encouragement awaits you every step of the way.

On this Stewardship Sunday, consider offering the gift of your presence and voice. Come as you are. Sing as you are. We welcome all, without exception.

Questions? aria@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 PUCG

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

Interfaith Intertwine Faith 250 How have our faiths shaped America?

Saturday, November 14 | 6:30-8:30pm | Fellowship Hall and Gathering Space
Continue to mingle and deepen relationships with our Muslim and Jewish friends 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 candle ceremony that closes out the Sabbath), a discussion on Faith 250 and faith contributions to America, perspectives from different faith communities, and small-group table conversations.

We are looking for a few people to bring halal and kosher treats to enjoy 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. We look forward to seeing you!

Questions? Ready to RSVP? Want to bring an interfaith snack to share?

Please reach out to our own Paige or Lisa, PUCC Intertwine Coordinators.

Lisa Mason lmason624@sbcglobal.net

Paige Penico andipaige@hotmail.com

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

Parkway Adventurers: *Weldon Spring Site and Interpretive Center*

Friday, November 20 | 9:30am carpool | St Charles and Defiance MO

Have you ever wondered what that big hill is on Highway 94 near Francis Howell High School? Come find out! Please join the Parkway Adventurers as we head to *The Weldon Spring Site and Interpretive Center* (opened in 2022), followed by lunch at *Defiance Ridge Vineyards*.

If you'd like to carpool, please meet at the church at 9:30 and we'll tour the facility starting at 10am. There will be a short talk by a docent followed by self-guided exploration of the museum and site. *The Weldon Spring Site Interpretive Center* delves into the history of the area and details the cleanup process that resulted in construction of the 41-acre engineered disposal cell related to the *Manhattan Project*. The surrounding gardens, prairie, trails,

and disposal cell viewing platform are open to the public to explore. It's a beautiful site and a fascinating museum. The disposal cell is open to the public during daylight hours via a staircase and crushed gravel walkway. A viewing platform allows a panoramic view of St. Charles County and surrounding Howell Prairie. *The Interpretive Center* is located at 7295 S Highway 94, Saint Charles, MO 63304, and *Defiance Ridge Vineyards* is at 2711 S Hwy 94 Defiance, MO 63341. Please email Jackie Eiffert if you have questions and/or are planning to attend **jeiffert2@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**

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.*

ONA ~ October

Preserving a Church's Affirming History

By Deb Reinhardt, PUCC Open & Affirming Team

I was fortunate to spend time recently with two noted LGBTQ+ historians (both from St. Louis), Steven Brawley, founder of the St. Louis LGBTQ+ History Project, and Rodney Wilson, founder of LGBTQ+ History Month that happens each year in October. Both historians shared with me the importance of preserving a church's history of welcoming and affirming LGBTQ+ people. They agree that it's important to protect our stories in an era when some people with power want to erase LGBTQ+ history. But when shared with the wider public (outside our congregation), these stories can be a powerful way to let LGBTQ+ people know a church can be a sanctuary for them.

The ONA Team at Parkway UCC is exploring with the Communications Team ways to bring out our church's ONA history. More on that later. But now, let's take a moment to remember some of the United Church of Christ's remarkable story as a leader in LGBTQ+ inclusion and affirmation.

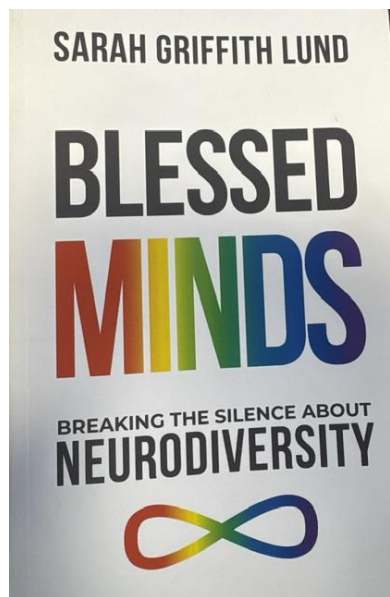
In 1969, the UCC adopted the "Resolution on Homosexuals and the Law" and just three years later (1972) the Rev. William R. Johnson became the first openly gay person ordained into a mainline Protestant denomination. The same year, Rev. Johnson founded the UCC Gay Caucus that would later become our Open and Affirming (ONA) Coalition.

Ten years later, Rev. Anne Holmes became the first openly lesbian minister ordained in the UCC. In 2004, Rev. Malcolm Himschoot was ordained as UCC clergy. His story was told in the 2005 documentary, *Call Me Malcolm*. Today, Rev. Himschoot is dean of the Maine School of Ministry and serves as pastor at the Church of Universal Fellowship.

On April 27, 2008, Parkway UCC voted to become Open and Affirming with 83.5 percent approval. Carol Cobb was chair of the ONA Exploratory Committee that convened in 2007. Rev. Kevin Cameron (currently serving) was pastor at that time.

Our denomination and church have much to celebrate this month, and we should do that! But there always is room to grow as we lean further into our ONA covenant. Those opportunities will be shared with you by the ONA Team. I'm thankful to be in service with these Team members: Sally Dodge, Andy Impastato, Kris Impastato, Emma Zyriek-Rhodes, Greg Schmelig, Pam Walker, and Kevin Cameron.

All Church Read



Calling all PUCCers to be a part of a book discussion! From time to time, we come upon a book that we would like as many PUCCers as possible to read. **Blessed Minds: Breaking the Silence About Neurodiversity** is such a book.

Good Reads invites us to explore ~

Many churches are unintentionally exclusive toward people whose brains work differently. *Blessed Minds: Breaking the Silence About Neurodiversity* helps churches embrace the gifts of neurodiversity and become a place of belonging for all. In this book, we will learn

- What neurodiversity is (and isn't)
- How to create neuroinclusive worship
- Practical tips for welcoming neurodivergent families.
- Theological insights into neurodiversity as part of God's good creation.

Look for a print or audio copy through your favorite provider and watch for late Nov. dates when will discuss **Blessed Minds** in person and on Zoom.

Prayer List

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

Celebrations

Early Voting is open in MO - *Vote with Love!*

Deep canvassers of PROMO and others pouring their hearts out now.

Summer Levin - running her first half-marathon on October 25.

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

Concerns

Jo Grove - hospitalized last week; now strengthening at home.

Nancy & Jack Litzinger - as he settles into care center by *The Willows*.

Evelyn Buretta - being released from rehab facility; home PT in AZ.

Trans inmates in MO prisons who are denied gender-affirming care.

Victims, families, community of recent school shootings in the US.

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).

Mark McKenzie - strengthening after hospitalization (Tom's brother).

Matthew and Tiffany - as they sort through his many medical challenges and find a path forward with family support (Thomé).

Lindsey - parenting 4 with Brent; lung cancer diagnosis (Schmelig).

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.

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.

Keeping Covenant

Jennifer Ruth Lynn Garrison

All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees. - Psalm 25:10 (NRSV)

Earlier in the old church, stories of the ancestors were shared in all their grace and complication. Now the light is slanting through the windows, and the only sound is your own breath. But you are not alone. The ancestors are still present, all around you.

Wipe down the kitchen counters and take a bag of garbage out to the bin. But first, pause. Remember that with these same invisible, invaluable tasks, many generations have assured that this sacred space is kept tidy and prepared.

Turn off the lights in the hall. But first, look. On the wall there's a fuzzy, old, black-and-white photo of a Sunday school class gathered on the church steps. Notice a girl in a frilly dress is making another child giggle. Or is she crying? The photo is too blurry to tell. Remember that they also wept and laughed here.

Slide the sanctuary doors firmly closed. But first, listen. Hear their voices. They also sang and preached and agreed to disagree here.

As you let yourself out into the crisp late-afternoon sun, pause again by the cemetery gate. Feel, look, listen.

Too often you think you must create how to Be Church from scratch. You rush around inventing programs and projects as if you invented the very idea of programs and projects. But today, stop. Pay attention.

They are here. Here to uplift and correct and watch over and pull forward. Here to tell you that in the small chores, the big feelings and every single word, you are keeping covenant with them, as they do with you.

Prayer:

God, thank you for the steadfast love and faithfulness of our ancestors, with us still. 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/>





What are some of the biggest changes you have witnessed or experienced in your lifetime?

What change is happening in you - or around you - this autumn and what has that been like for you?

What might you be giving up or letting go right now?

How can PUCC be supportive of you these days?