

PARKWAY
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
ALL ACCEPTED, NO EXCEPTIONS

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www.parkwayucc.org

November 8, 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. 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 Jackie Eiffert.
Flowers given by Karen Mariani in celebration of everyone worshipping together in the sanctuary and virtually today!
Treats provided by Cindy Changyit-Levin.
Our Prayer Chaplain this morning is Emma Zyriek-Rhodes.
If you would like to volunteer for any of these serving opportunities or join the corresponding group, please scan the QR code and click on the **Serving Opportunities Calendar**. Thanks!

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

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Mental Health Support

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

Birthdays

11-09 Cindy Changyit Levin
11-09 Brenda Fraser
11-10 Lynn Sableman
11-11 Erin Frick
11-13 John Dwyer
11-15 Stephanie Polster

Anniversaries

11-08 Michelle and Brad Brueggemann

20th Sunday *after* Pentecost

Sunday, November 8, 2026 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & YouTube Live
When you see the (*), please rise in body or spirit - depending on your comfort.

Prelude Variations on ST. ANNE
Arr. Mark Rippe

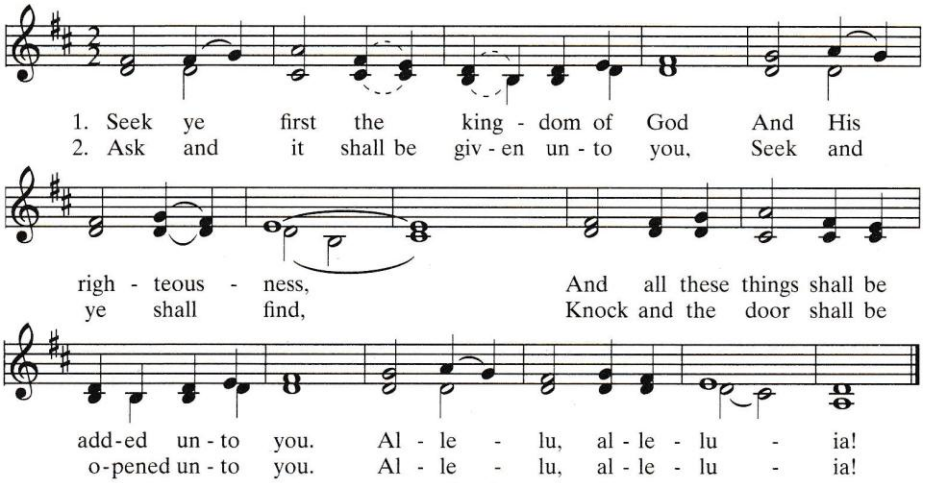
Welcome Let us know you are here!

Meditation Abundance is not the absence of scarcity; it is the presence of abundant mentality. ~Debasish Mridha

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

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Welcome Song *Seek Ye First* #333 | red hymnal



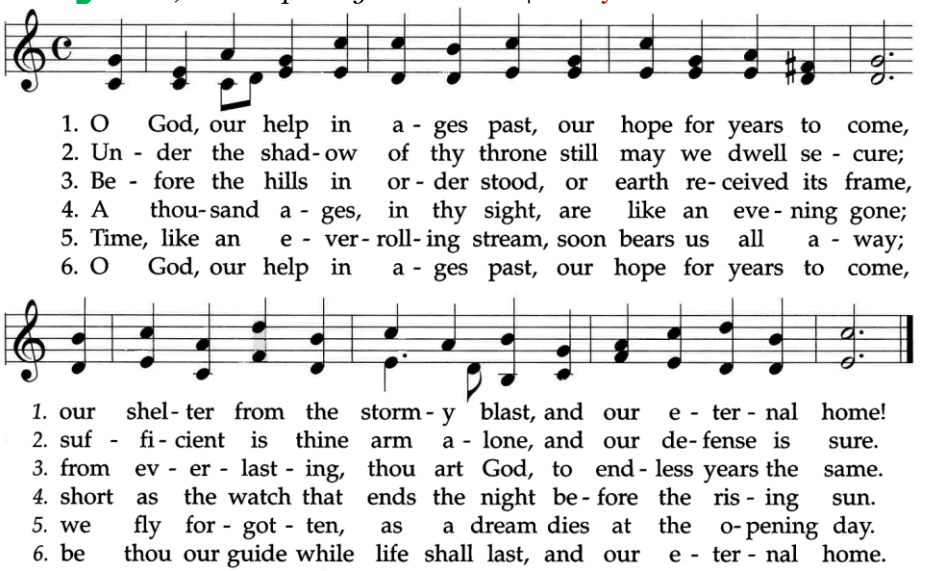
Scripture Matthew 25:1-13 | Common English Bible (CEB)
Jesus said, ""At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten young bridesmaids who took their lamps and went out to meet the groom. Now five of them were wise, and the other five were foolish. The foolish ones took their lamps but didn't bring oil for them. But the wise ones took their lamps and also brought containers of oil.
"When the groom was late in coming, they all became drowsy and went to sleep. But at midnight there was a cry, 'Look, the groom! Come out to meet him.'
"Then all those bridesmaids got up and prepared their lamps. But the foolish bridesmaids said to the wise ones, 'Give us some of your oil, because our lamps have gone out.'
"But the wise bridesmaids replied, 'No, because if we share with you, there won't be enough for our lamps and yours. We have a better idea. You go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'

But while they were gone to buy oil, the groom came. Those who were ready went with him into the wedding. Then the door was shut.
"Later the other bridesmaids came and said, 'Lord, lord, open the door for us.'
"But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.'
"Therefore, keep alert, because you don't know the day or the hour."

*Call to Worship

One: Come, let us gather and listen to the stories of faith passed down through generations.
Many: We come to give thanks, remember, to learn, and to discover what wisdom has to teach us.
One: Come, with lamps ready and hearts open, paying attention to the world around us.
Many: We come to stay awake to the possibilities of God's presence.
One: The kindom of God is not simply something we wait for.
Many: It is already taking shape among us, calling us to participate!
One: So let us leave behind the fear that there will never be enough.
Many: And embrace the possibility that God's love, grace, and abundance are greater than we imagine.
All: Let us worship our God together - Creator, Christ and Spirit.
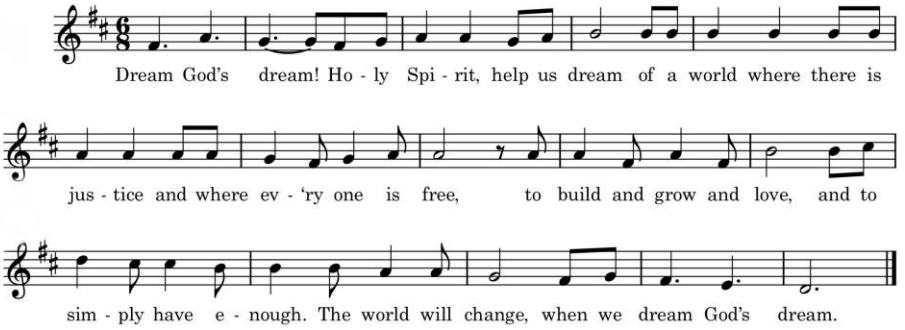
*Song *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* #210 | red hymnal



*Opening Prayer

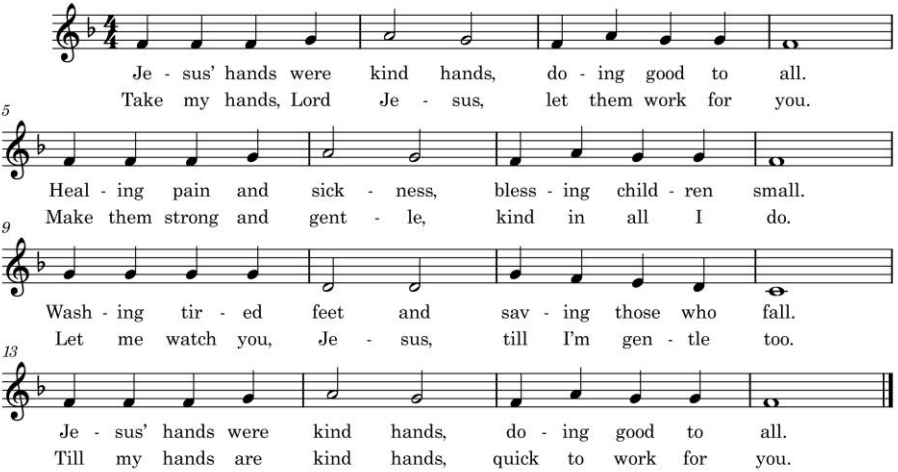
God of wisdom and possibility, awaken us to your presence among us. Remind us of the stories and lessons that have shaped our faith, and open us to the wisdom we are still discovering.
When we become preoccupied with what we might run out of, help us trust in the abundance of your love. When we grow distracted, help us pay attention. When opportunities to love, serve, welcome, and make a difference arise, help us be ready.
Keep our lamps burning and our hearts open to the kindom already unfolding among us. 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 *Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands*



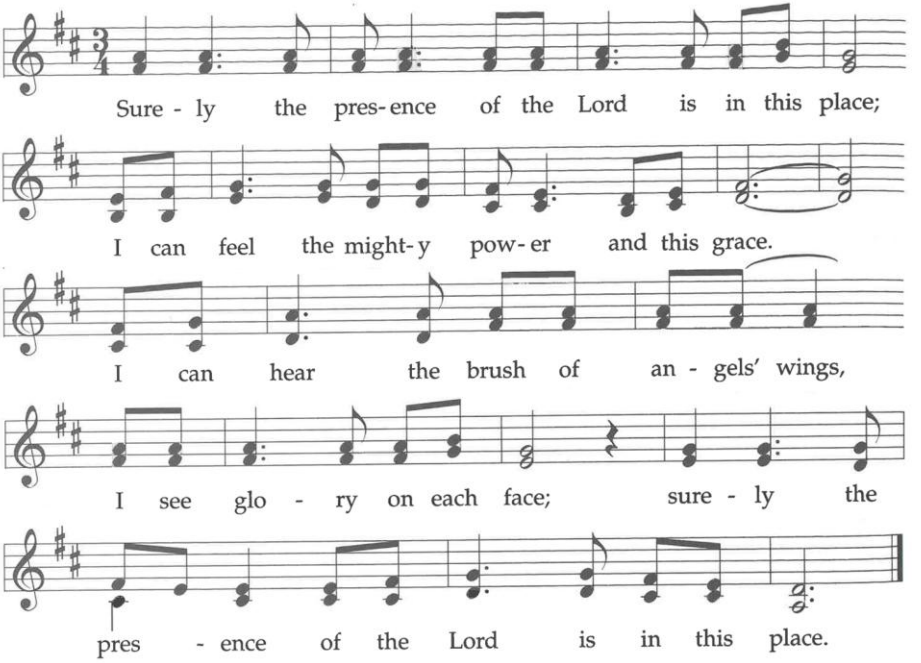
Scripture Psalm 78:1-7 | Inclusive Language Psalter

Hear my teaching, O my people; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth in a parable; I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.
That which we have heard and known, and what our ancestors have told us, we will not hide from their children.
We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power of God, and the wonderful works God has done.
God gave their decrees to Jacob and established a law for Israel, which God commanded them to teach their children;
that the generations to come might know, and the children yet unborn;
that they in their turn might tell it to their children; so that they might put their trust in God, and not forget the deeds of God, but keep God's commandments.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon

Time of Prayer *Surely the Presence*
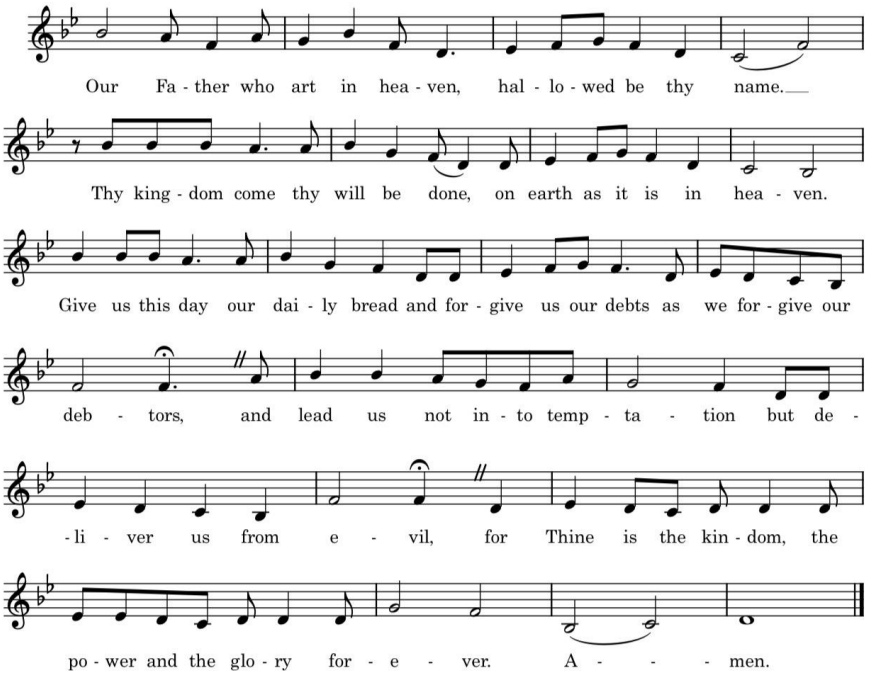


Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer sung to the tune by Nate Stout



Stewardship Moment *There Our Hearts Will Be*

Sally Dodge, Harold Cobb

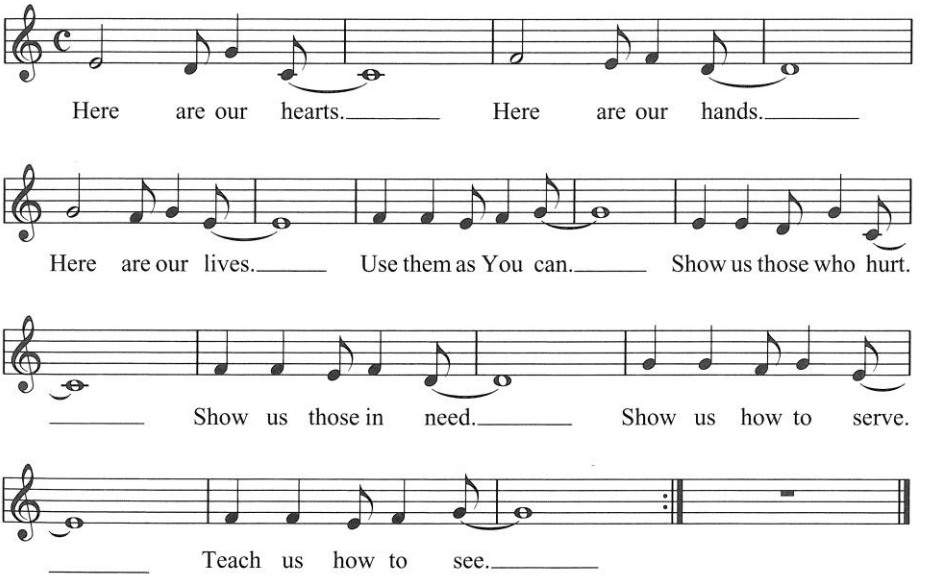
Offering Our Gifts to God

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 *Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning*

African American Spiritual, arr. Andre Thomas

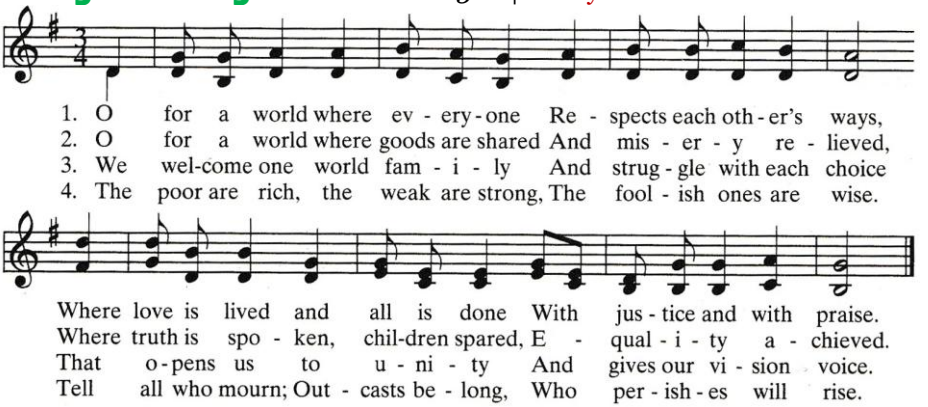
*Response *Here Are Our Hearts*



*Prayer of Dedication

Generous God, we bring these gifts with gratitude and hope. We give not because we have everything, but because we trust that generosity creates possibilities beyond what we can see.
May these gifts bring light where there is darkness, nourishment where there is hunger, welcome where there is exclusion, and hope where it is needed.
Keep us attentive to the opportunities around us, ready to share what we have and participate in the kindom you are bringing to life.
Amen.

*Song of Parting *O For A World #386* | red hymnal



***Benediction**

***God's Light Goes Forth**

***Music for Going Forth** Tocatta on AZMON
Arr. Robert Train Adams



There Our Hearts Will Be – 2027 Pledge Campaign

The Stewardship Commission continues to be grateful for the response for 2027 pledges from the congregation!
We are currently at $130,670 which is 30% of our goal of $425,00.
Every gift matters. Faithful stewardship is not measured by equal amounts, but by prayerful, generous, and willing participation.
As a reminder - any pledge amount is welcomed!
If you would like to pledge, you may do so either by using the included QR code which will take to you the PUCC website, or go our website: http://www.parkwayucc.org website, then select Worship & Giving, then select Pledging. Or you are welcome to use a Pledge card available on the table just outside the sanctuary.
Questions? Please contact Linda Tossing at ltossing@att.net or Kari Borgmann at Kari_Borgmann@yahoo.com

Announcements

Please use the form at **www.parkwayucc.org/communications** for all announcements for our media. Bulletin and eNews deadline: noon Monday.

Our Communications Team is very active and is exploring all kinds of avenues. Please subscribe to our YouTube Channel today. Our YouTube Channel is **@parkwayuccstl** 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

TODAY! Sunday, November 8 | 11:15am-12:15pm | Heritage Room
"Kent and Jameson's Excellent Adventure," by the Tallyn Boys.
A Boundary Waters canoe trip is a back country camping adventure centered on canoe travel through a vast, roadless network of glacial lakes and pine forests, along the U.S.-Canada border. You pack all your food, shelter, and clothing and then you paddle across lakes. When the land blocks your path, you "portage"- meaning you carry the canoe and all your heavy gear across dirt, rock, or mud trails to reach the next lake. There are no roads, motorized vehicles, cell towers, or electricity. It forces you to unplug from modern technology and align your schedule with the rising and setting of the sun. The region boasts some of the cleanest, most pristine water in America. It is also designated as a dark sky sanctuary, making it a premier destination for stargazing and viewing the Northern Lights. Kent, his son Jameson and his daughter Sara, along with her husband Nick, completed their boundary waters adventure last summer and now will share their story of a lifetime, family adventure.

Sunday, November 15 | 11:15am-12:15pm | Heritage Room
"Building Brain Healthy Habits," a Presentation of the Alzheimer's Association, St. Louis Chapter
Research shows there are everyday habits you can build today to help protect your memory and thinking as you get older- even reducing your risk of cognitive decline and possibly dementia. Join us to learn about healthy habits for your brain; the brain-heart connection; why brain health is important at all ages, and how to build your personalized action plan for brain-healthy habits.

All programs are held in the Heritage Room, following Worship from 11:15am - 12:15pm. Questions? Richard Scherrer **90fivetpr@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 more gravy packets and a few more can openers by TODAY, November 8. Thanks for your support! Questions? Sally Dodge **s.dodge@hotmail.com**

Tuesday Evening Dialogue *How to Read a Book*

Tuesday, November 10 | 6pm in person; 6:45pm Zoom | Penico Home; Zoom

November 10 only - gather at Paige Penico's home (ask Helen for address). Please join us for our last 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 will be discussing the last third of the book from Chapter 22 "Violet" (p. 191) to the end of the book. Paige has offered to host TED this evening to give us the amazing opportunity to meet and learn about her parrots - since African Gray parrots have a very important role in this book.

TED meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday in the Heritage Room. Potluck dinner starts at 6pm; book discussion starts at 7pm.

If you can't join us in-person you are welcome to Zoom starting at 6:45pm. For questions contact Helen Race at **raceh@att.net**

ZOOM LINK:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84944039731?pwd=0zUOvAjuiGPmKEpn2Jyg08gIAeDx0y.1 > Meeting ID: 849 4403 9731; Passcode: 792617

Coffee and Conversation with Kevin

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

PUCC Cooks Swing into Action – *Lunch for Tornado Victims*

Friday, November 13 | 9:30am | Kitchen

As you may remember, after the May 2025 Tornado, many St. Louis residents in North St. Louis became homeless. A group called *314 Oasis* was formed through grants to help citizens with home repair advice, housing, and food. A group of PUCCers volunteered to assist with some lunches for forty clients this fall - including Linda Tossing, Kris McKenzie, Deb Reinhardt, Diane Brost, Harold and Carol Cobb. Our first day to provide a meal was **October 9**. We will gather again on 11/13 at 9:30am in the Parkway kitchen to assemble some hearty sandwiches, sides, fruit, and, of course, brownies from our own *Sweet Bakers*.

Please feel free to join us in the assembly line of slicing tomatoes, making sandwiches, and putting the lunches together in brown 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 case assortment of chips. If you can assist with any of these donations, please contact Carol Cobb **ccjcobb@aol.com**.

[Our next opportunity will be December 11.]

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

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

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 fill out this form: https://forms.gle/qSDmdDbbe9g8XyBs8

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

Lisa Mason **lmason624@sbcglobal.net**

Paige Penico **andipaige@hotmail.com**

TAD Begins Next Book - The Thursday Murder Club

November 17 (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 17th, as Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue (TAD) begins the book The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman. Set in a peaceful retirement village, four unlikely friends meet up once a week to solve cold cases and investigate unsolved murders. The book is a blend of witty humor, clever puzzle-solving, and a warm-hearted look at aging and deep friendship. We'll discuss this book over three sessions. We'd love to have you join us on Zoom on November 17th! Feel free to stop in at 1:45 to visit and share what's happening in our lives, and get to know one another better, 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**

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 questions and/or are planning to attend **jeiffert2@gmail.com**

Harvest Decorating... Advent Decorating

Saturday, November 21 | 10-11:30am | Sanctuary

We'll decorate the chancel area with harvest items for Sunday, November 22. **Hanging of the Greens** for Advent and Christmas will take place after worship on Sunday, November 22, as Advent begins on *November 29*!

Help us celebrate the holidays by decorating the Sanctuary, Gathering Space and out front! Questions? Carol Cobb **ccjcobb@aol.com**

Learn the Art of Sourdough

Saturday, November 21 | 1pm | Heritage Room

Join us for a hands-on Sourdough Workshop to discover the secrets to baking your own delicious bread from scratch. Learn about the history of sourdough, basic sourdough terminology, and basic techniques to establish your own sourdough tradition in your own kitchen. Each participant will go home with their own live sourdough starter and a loaf ready to bake later that night! Light refreshments will be provided.

- Cost: $20 per person - proceeds will benefit the PUCC Outreach Ministry.
- Bring: A large mixing bowl (preferably not metal) and a mixing spoon.
- Tools beneficial to have at home for afterwards: digital scale, dutch oven
- RSVP Deadline: Saturday, November 14

To reserve your spot, please contact Michelle Brueggemann **michellebrue82@gmail.com**

Keep Our Lamps Burning

As winter approaches and days grow darker, this week's parable of the ten virgins invites us to ask: *What keeps our spiritual lamps burning?* Perhaps music is one way we replenish that oil. Singing together nourishes our own spirits while offering warmth, beauty, and light to others, in the way traditions of old during this time shared in the community harvest for sustenance.

As Advent and Christmas approaches, consider sharing your voice with the Parkway Choir for our December 13 Lessons and Carols and Christmas Eve worship. Rehearsals are Thursdays, 7:00–8:30 p.m., with only a seasonal commitment.
Come fill your lamp and help us together illuminate the darkness others may feel. The light belongs to us all. Will you help give that to others?
Please reach out today aria@parkwayucc.org

Know What to Do in a Medical Emergency

Sunday December 6 | 12-2:30pm | Fellowship Hall
A Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) plus Automated External Defibrillator (AED) plus Stop the Bleed (STB) plus First Aid certification class presented by West County EMS will be onsite in Parkway's Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 6 from 12-2:30pm. Emergency procedures are included for both adults and children. The certification is good for two years (This class was last held at Parkway in 2024). The class is for participants in the Parkway and Marthoma congregations. You must register by name and home address in advance. Class size is limited to 16 participants - a few spots remain.

Why is this important? There is a chance that victims of choking, heart failure, or serious external bleeding may die before an ambulance arrives. The real first responders are the people in the building that know what to do. Parkway UCC will cover the cost of the class - $55/participant. There is no charge for residents of West County EMS Fire Protection District. Thus, home address is required with registration.

If you have questions or want assistance signing up, please contact Richard Race **racerichardg@gmail.com**

Go AWOL! *Adventurous Women Out Late*

Come build connections with women this fall with some fun upcoming events!
Sunday 12/13: Allegro Concert - details to come! Allegro has a home here and we have a connection with a good number of singers.
For more info, contact Carmen Bumgarner **cfbum@charter.net**

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/**

All Church Read – *Blessed Minds*

Monday, November 30 | 1-2:15pm on Zoom | 6:30-8pm in the Heritage Room
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. (We have a few copies available as we want to help clear the path for wide participation!)

Join us on Monday, November 30 from 1-2:15pm on Zoom
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83486577938?pwd=VbBK04u8I3I8hp8tOprfbldalOkbsL.1 Meeting ID: 834 8657 7938; Passcode: 107488

Available in person? Come Monday, November 30 from 6:30-8pm to the Heritage Room. Bring some treats to share if you'd like!
Questions? **kevin@parkwayucc.org**

Alzheimer's News ~ November

Last Saturday was a cloudy cool day for the WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S at the Chesterfield Amphitheater. PUCCers who participated: Joyce & John Ruiz, Nancy Litzinger, Kent Tallyn and Polly Rutherford walked the mile route around the lake after the opening ceremony that featured celebrities from channel 4 TV. Our PUCC team has raised $2,890 dollars. Donations are still being accepted until December 31. Please make checks payable to: Alzheimer's Association. You may give them to Joyce Ruiz to turn in with the proper paperwork.
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

Dance with a Stranger

Freeman Palmer, UCC pastor

Let them praise God's name with dancing, making melody to God with tambourine and lyre. - Psalm 149:3 (NRSV, adapted)

A college friend recently introduced me to a song I'd never heard, from a band I'd never heard of.

The band is Lake Street Dive, nicknamed LSD (which, for those of a certain age, means something very different!). The song is "Dance with a Stranger." Curious, I gave it a listen soon after our conversation, and I was struck by the spiritual message in its lyrics, which say in part:

Look around the room; Find somebody you've never seen before, And lead them out to the dance floor. And dance, dance with a stranger, 'Til they're not a stranger anymore.

The music video captures the lyrics beautifully. A dazzling array of unlikely dance partners fills the floor: an African American drag queen sashays with a young white woman in a floral bonnet; a cleric grooves with a middle-aged man who might belong to another faith—or none at all. Even the initially stone-faced security guard gets his groove on and joins the crowd.

You can see it here: *Dance with a Stranger*
https://youtu.be/n_h4E0AsaJw?si=cE4kqoKPY7crsRlS

I like to imagine the reign of God as one great dance floor—where there are no wallflowers, and everyone joins in. Picture it: a Fox News commentator doing the electric slide with their CNN counterpart, a rabbi learning the traditional Middle Eastern Dance dabke from an imam, and an Olympic athlete swinging their Special Olympics partner through a joyful square dance.

No one would be a stranger on that dance floor. And that would be praise that truly pleases God.

Prayer: Lord of the Dance, teach us to move in rhythm with love, until we are "no longer strangers and aliens." Amen. (Ephesians 2:19)

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/

Prayer List

Wednesday, November 4, 2026

Celebrations

Sara and Keith Doll - *New Members of Parkway UCC!*
Brenna Race & Christopher James wedding 11/7 (Rich/Helen Race)

Concerns

Andrea Barnes - healing after recent surgery.
Val Detjen - recuperating from surgery.
Evelyn Buretta - released from rehab facility; home PT in AZ.
Donna - strengthening in rehab after hospital (Dottie Dwyer's sister).
Mike Bassler - ICU; kidneys are improved; heart surgery next (Dodge).
Family of Gary Rodenberg - as wife Kathy and others grieve (Tallyn).
Kenelma and others - unjustly detained in ICE facilities (McDougall).
Woodson - 4 yr old heart transplant; more heart surgery this wk (Yakel)
Mac (Woodson's grandpa) - Parkinson's diagnosis (Yakel).
Bert - recovering from a car accident (Yakel).
Patricia - brain damage from overdose (Jones-Goldstein).
Georgette - living with cancer (Jones-Goldstein).
Trans inmates in MO prisons who are denied gender-affirming care.
The people of Spain - grief after catastrophic and deadly train crash.
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 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]
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.