PARKWAY
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
ALL ACCEPTED, NO EXCEPTIONS

LIMITLESS LOVE
COURAGEOUS ACTION
SPIRITED INQUIRY

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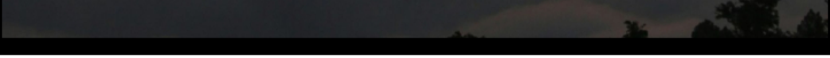

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Worship With Us this Sunday, December 28

Worship with us at 10am this Sunday! Join us here at PUCC or on YouTube Live (@parkwayuccstl)... or participate any time later on YouTube.

We are in the Twelve Days of Christmas now - no, we won't be singing the song this Sunday.

We will continue the echoes of **Psalm 148**, a song of great celebration. Our gospel lesson is **Luke 2:21-40**, which takes place eight days after Jesus is born. Mary and Joseph bring him to the temple to follow the religious customs for a baby boy. While there, they meet Simeon and Anna, two devout older people from the community. Simeon took Jesus up in his arms and gave thanks for him. Simeon blessed them all. Anna, a prophet and widow who was 84 years old, is also there. She was so delighted to tell people about who Jesus was/is/would be.

Worship bulletin **here**!

Songs include: *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*; *The First Nowell; Spirit of the Living God; Be Near Me, Lord Jesus; All of You Who Walked in Darkness; There's Not a Thing That God Can't Do*

The recipients of our **Second Mile Giving** for Advent/Christmas in 2025 are: Circle of Concern, Emmaus Homes, PROMO and our UCC's *Christmas Fun*

Nursery Sunday Hours in Room 6
Besides during worship, the Nursery is also open before worship from **9:00–10:00am** and after worship from **11:15am–12:15pm** *(*on Sundays when we have a Speaker Series or other need for extended care) for infants and kids through 5th grade, where they will receive loving care from our Nursery childcare providers.
For more info, please contact me at gabriel@parkwayucc.org

Prayer List Updates as of December 26

Mona Maynard - retired last week after nearly 15 years at PUCC. (Please let kevin@parkwayucc.org know if you would like Mona's address so you send her a card.)
Individuals and families grieving at the New Year.
All the travelers this holiday season.
Greenly Alexis Svenson arrived in good health weighing in at 8/4 and 21 inches long (must keep up that Svenson/Weas height!). Most importantly, she's very healthy as is the surrogate mother.
Pam Walker - healing after surgery earlier this week.
Marion Pleis - healing from recent carpal tunnel surgery.
Greg Schmelig's father - in a rehab facility after recent hospital stay.
Tina - complications of Legionaries' disease (Jones-Goldstein).
Traci Saputo's dad - hospitalized with broken hip and other issues.
Ongoing chaos/grief in the Middle East - and the *peace talks*.

The continuing war with Ukraine and Russia.
Our St Louis neighbors finding their way after tornado in May.

Drivers Needed

From time to time, PUCCers are in need of rides to medical appts when their usual circle of support is unavailable. Some in our church family also need help getting to worship. Please let kevin@parkwayucc.org know you are willing to help. You will be added to the list of potential drivers and will receive an email once we have a request for a ride.

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PUCC Announcements

Christmas Greetings from the United Church of Christ

"Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to

them, 'Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.'"
- Matthew 2:9-11

May the joy which overcomes fear be contagious among us this holy season. May the light of the Christ child be known again as glory and treasure to you, and to all who have need to receive it. May God's love be upon you.

Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson
General Minister and President/CEO
United Church of Christ

They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season.
Rooted in Love

If you would like to make a financial pledge toward our mission and ministry for 2026, please visit [***https://parkwayucc.org/giving/***](https://parkwayucc.org/giving/)
Your involvement helps keep our passion for limitless love, courageous action and spirited inquiry rooted in love and moving forward. We appreciate your support! Parkway UCC strives to be an inclusive community embracing spiritual nourishment, open-mined inquiry, courageous action and interfaith partnerships

FUNDrive Planned for Jan-March 2026 Clean out your closets & cupboards--Help TWO GOOD CAUSES!

Parkway United Church of Christ is sponsoring a FUNDrive for two organizations in our church:
the Eco-Stewards, with funds going toward maintaining and improving the Wildflower Pollinator Garden and
the Youth Group, with funds going toward their mission trips.

to fulfill God's calling to create a just world for all.

We have bags and packing instruction available in the Gathering Space and will start collecting bags of clothing and household textiles, as well as boxes of small household goods, books, and media on **Sunday, January 4, 2026**. The drive will continue through **March 7**. Start thinking now about what you can donate to support these causes and streamline your home to start the New Year!

Drop off bags and boxes in the Fellowship Hall, to your right, when you walk in.

Questions—contact Polly Rutherford, pollyrutherford@gmail.com

PARKWAY

SPEAKER SERIES

Speaker Series Occasional opportunities after worship at 11:15am

“Mark Twain, His Wit, His Words, and His Life,” by Bev Schuetz of History Talks.
Sunday, January 4, 2026 | 11:15am | Heritage Room

Learn the surprising story of America’s most beloved author while laughing at his wonderful observations on human nature. Follow this Missouri born writer’s great successes and personal happiness as well as his tragic personal and financial losses.

Our speaker, Bev Schuetz, is a popular and dynamic speaker who has created HISTORY TALKS, a series of live presentations. She is known for her unique topics, delightful presentations, and thoroughly researched programs. HISTORY TALKS combines her skills in public speaking, historical analysis, and creative writing. The results are lectures that reward and enrich those attending her presentations.

“Bletchley Park; the Home of WWII’s Codebreakers,” by Parks Smith. Sunday, January 18, 2026 | 11:15am | Heritage Room

Bletchley Park, in England, was the top-secret home of the World War II "Codebreakers." a term for the over 9,000 men and women who intercepted and cracked German war messages. Winston Churchill referred to the Bletchley staff as "the geese who laid the golden eggs and never cackled." Our speakers, Parks Smith, is a retired St. Louisan historian, who often speaks at the St. Louis History Museum.

Mr. Smith will explore Bletchley Park's history from 1939 to 1946, sharing stories of those who worked there and detailing how German messages were captured and decoded during the Battle of the Atlantic. This mighty effort included breaking the German Enigma and Lorenz codes and developing the Colossus computer.

Questions? Please email Richard Scherrer at **90fivetpr@gmail.com**

AMOE Meeting Change of Date for January 2026

Thursday, January 8, 2026
9:15am | Heritage Room

The boys of AMOE will meet on the second Thursday of January, and then return to the first Thursday of each month. All are welcome. Bring a friend if you like for fellowship and good coffee.

Authentic Selves: Celebrating Trans and Nonbinary People & Their Families

Saturday, January 24, 2026
7-8:30pm | Gathering Space

Join the Parkway ONA Team and the LGBTQ+ Faith Alliance in welcoming the Family Diversity Project's photo exhibit, "Authentic Selves," presented at Parkway

WITNESSING
WHITENESS
THE JOURNEY INTO RACIAL AWARENESS
AND ANTIRACIST ACTION

Witnessing Whiteness PUCC Study Group begins in January on Zoom

We're forming a Witnessing Whiteness learning circle using Shelly Tochluk's book Witnessing Whiteness: The Journey into Racial Awareness and Antiracist Action as our framework. It's a

UCC from **Jan. 24 through Feb. 8, 2026.**

Opening night reception features guest Jordon Braxton, a longtime St. Louis advocate for trans rights and a member of the St. Lois City HIV Health Services Planning Council. Refreshments will be served.

A second opening will be from 9 to 10am with opportunity to view exhibit and enjoy a continental breakfast before Sunday worship. The exhibit will be on view through Feb. 8, 2026.

Please RSVP by Jan. 23 **here**.

For more info, contact Debbie Reinhardt
deborahreinhardt@att.net

supportive, no-shame space where white-identifying people can explore identity, grow in self-awareness, and practice showing up with more courage, compassion, and clarity in our diverse and hurting world. No expertise needed is - just curiosity and a willingness to reflect in community. This will take place on Zoom - Mondays 6:30-8:30pm so you can be part of this no matter where you live or if you have travel plans.

There are examples of racist, xenophobic and deeply rooted prejudice in the news every day. Unfortunately, some of the most powerful people in our land are attempting to rewrite our nation's racial history and are continuing to create and sustain systems of bias. We cannot allow this to happen. This is not what love does.

We have the right and duty to do what we can to understand the roots of this behavior and to be very intentional about being as antiracist as we can be. Our faith calls us to rise to this opportunity and responsibility. This group will help you find critical insights and guide you into being a more aware and justice minded/hearted person.

If you’re looking for a space to deepen your understanding, build stronger relationships, and align your actions with your values, we’d love to have you. This experience is free. We just ask that you purchase the book. More guidance will be provided by our three trained volunteer facilitators that have been assigned to shepherd or PUCC group.

We invite you to engage in an exciting opportunity that supports our core values of limitless love, courageous action and spirited inquiry. The purpose of this group is to gain thought-provoking information and engage in meaningful conversations surrounding how White people can, and should, play an important role in the fight for racial justice.

This is a big commitment that I believe is worth every moment in our efforts toward the common good.

We invite you to engage in this

unique opportunity that supports our core values of limitless love, courageous action and spirited inquiry. The purpose of this group is to gain thought-provoking information and engage in meaningful conversations surrounding how White people can, and should, play an important role in the fight for racial justice.

I have participated in a Witnessing Whiteness group in the past and will not be a part of this one. Please reach out to him with questions or to sign up. Dates: Jan 26; Feb 2, 9, 23; Mar 2, 9, 23, 30; Apr 6, 13, 20, 27; May 4 and 11.

We have ten people committed now and need at least two more so the minimum group of 12 can be formed.

Please reserve your seat the table by reaching out to me kevin@parkwayucc.org today. The facilitators are wanting our roster asap so they can begin to connect and welcome folks.

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Recurring PUCC Events

TAD
Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue

Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue
1st & 3rd Tuesday | 1:45pm fellowship | 2:00-3:00pm discussion
Zoom Link (312) 626-6799;
Meeting ID: 836 7061 7428;
Passcode: 480007

Please join with TAD for our latest book, *The Maid* by Nita Prose. We'll discuss the book in thirds on Zoom: Last session is **January 6.**

A *Clue*-like, locked-room mystery and a heartwarming journey of the spirit, *The Maid* explores what it means to be the same as everyone else and yet entirely different—and reveals that all mysteries can be solved through connection to the human heart (Penguin Random House).We'd love to have you! Fellowship starts

TED
Tuesday Evening Dialogue

Tuesday Evening Dialogue
2nd and 4th Tuesdays | 6-8pm | Heritage Room
Zoom Meeting ID: 849 4403 9731;
Passcode: 792617

Please join us on for friendship and lively book discussions on **Jan 13** when TED resumes after our Holiday Break. We read a variety of books related to social justice, spirituality, different faiths, history, relationships, current events and nature. We also may choose some random books just for fun. Most books take three sessions to complete. Bring a dish to share for the pot luck & join us for our next conversation! Newcomers are always welcome!

Please join us in person at 6pm or on Zoom starting at 6:45pm.

at 1:45pm and the book discussion is from 2-3pm. For more info, please contact jeiffert2@gmail.com

Prayer Corner: an opportunity to pray with someone
Saturday, January 10 | 7-9am
New Sanctuary

Drop-in Prayer Time. Kevin will be in the Prayer Corner in the Sanctuary. Come on by if you'd like to pray together.
If you see someone else there, simply wait a bit in the Gathering Space.

We can arrange a phone call or Zoom for another time if you'd like. Just reach out to kevin@parkwayucc.org

Contact Helen Race at raceh@att.net for questions.

Coffee and Conversation at Panera
Monday, January 12 | 2pm
Panera on Manchester Rd, Des Peres

Join us for a beverage and sweet treat. Come connect! No need to RSVP - just show up!

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

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Other PUCC News

LGBTQ+ News for December

As we prepare to say goodbye to 2025 and greet the new year, here are three opportunities in January to stand in solidarity with the LGBTQIA+ community in St. Louis and throughout the state. Please find a way to be involved.

- PROMO Missouri will host a webinar at 5pm on **Jan 12** that gives a preview of this year's Missouri legislative session. Many anti-LGBTQ+ bills already have been filed. Our voices as affirming, faithful people are needed. Register for the webinar today here.
- Join the LGBTQ+ Faith Alliance **Jan 19 – 24** for its first Advocacy Week. There will be events to write letters and thank you cards to Missouri legislators **(Jan 20)**, attend a rally in Jefferson City (Jan 21), and raise our voices in song **(Jan 22)**. Details will be forthcoming and are available online here or email the Alliance at lgbtfaithalliance@aol.com for a schedule.
- Our ONA Team will present an exhibit of portraits and stories, "Authentic Selves," that highlight the lives of trans and nonbinary people. An opening reception will be at 7pm on **Jan 24** and feature local trans and HIV healthcare advocate, Jordon Braxton. You also can view the exhibit (which will be on display through **Feb 8**) and enjoy a continental breakfast at 9am on **Jan 25** prior to our worship service. Watch the weekly newsletter and worship bulletin for details as we get closer.

Parkway UCC ONA-Related Groups

These are difficult times in our state and country for LGBTQIA2S+ —

especially for transgender — citizens. Maybe you've said to yourself, "I wish there was something I could do to help." Well, there is something.

There are two groups offered at Parkway UCC to connect members who are interested in advocating for LGBTQ+ people. The first is the **Mission Ongoing—ONA Open and Affirming Group**. Members of this group will receive updates on legislation pertaining to LGBTQ+ Missourians and related actionable items, notices of meetings (virtual or in-person) happening around the area, news updates from transgender journalist and writers, and other resources. This group is intended to help organize PUCC advocates. Learn more **here.**

The second group is the **LGBTQ+ Faith Alliance**. It includes representatives from 30 faith traditions across the St. Louis metropolitan area and meets monthly in-person or virtually. Learn more **here**.

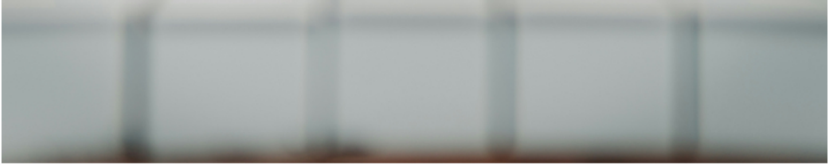
For more information, contact
Deb Reinhardt
deborahreinhardt@att.net

Winter Opportunities for Good Samaritans

North St. Louis Tornado Relief, food. Please add extra nonperishable food items on Give-a-Meal Sundays and throughout the winter season for Sunday give-aways to people affected by the St. Louis tornado. Please place items in marked containers in the lobby. Suggested items are canned green beans, corm, fruit, sweet potatoes, soups, peanut butter, jelly, pasta, meats, packages of spaghetti, mac n' cheese, rice, mashed potatoes, and baking items.

North St. Louis Tornado Relief, nonfood. Our church is a collection point for Planned Parenthood as they gather diapers, baby wipes, formula, and other baby and personal hygiene items for mothers and babies affected by the St. Louis tornado. We are also asked to contribute any such items throughout the autumn season. Please place items in the marked containers in the Gathering Space library area.

Questions? Please contact Sally Dodge s.dodge@hotmail.com or Evelyn Buretta burettaevelyn@gmail.com



OUR MUSIC MINISTRY
As we continue to develop our partnership with Amy Freeman as our organist/pianist, we're seeking more people to be a part of our music program. We're looking for individuals willing to sing a solo, duet, trio or to sing with a group and/or to sing with the First Sunday Choir each first Sunday of the month at 9am. We're also gathering names of instrumentalists who'd share their talents in worship, and those interested in joining a hand chime choir. Please reach out to amy@parkwayucc.org today.

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PUCC Marketplace

PUCC Shirts Available for Sale!
Show your church spirit and spread a little love wherever you go! Our new church t-shirts are comfortable, soft, and perfect for everything from Sunday worship to community events. They feature our church name/logo so you can wear your faith out loud. Shirts are just $15 each in a variety of sizes. Purchase your PUCC shirt today here!

For any questions, contact Gabriel

New Book! *Advocacy Made Easy*
PUCCer Cynthia Changyit Levin's new book, *Advocacy Made Easy: How to Turn Civic Frustration into Powerful Action,* is **now available**! This concise, 70-page guide offers step-by-step instructions to help both new and seasoned advocates effectively engage with elected officials at every level of government. It includes updated guidance on writing op-eds, navigating AI in advocacy, and crafting persuasive messages

gabriel@parkwayucc.org

using the "EPIC" format. Autographed copies with personal inscriptions are available for $15 through her website here. For more information or to join her launch team, email cynthia@changyit.com

Christian Education Updates

Day of Service in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Monday, January 19, 2026 | 9:30am-12pm | 3752 Giles Ave., St. Louis, 63116

Youth 12-17 years of age are welcome to join Interfaith Partnerships

Youth on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day to serve the unhoused. The youth will prepare a meal and set up cots/bedding for the unhoused. They will offer team and peace building games as well. Space is limited and you must register by letting Kevin know you are interested. Kevin will be leading the youth from PUCC. Contact him at kevin@parkwayucc.org for more info.

CEnews Link

You can find the **December 25** Christian Education newsletter here! If you'd like to be included in the CEnews mailing list, please just contact gabriel@parkwayucc.org

Join the Sunday School Ministry Team

We're looking for two volunteers to help teach Sunday School in 2025! If you enjoy working with kids and youth, this is a great way to serve—low commitment, just one or two Sundays a month.

Interested? Contact Gabriel Requadt, Director of Christian Education, at gabriel@parkwayucc.org or 314-872-9330 x101.

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Something to Ponder

The Sandwich Technique

The Sandwich Technique is a communication strategy used to deliver difficult or uncomfortable messages in a way that reduces defensiveness and increases the chances of being heard.

There may be some sandwich conversations you need to have as we wrap up 2025 and look to start the new year with healthy relationships and clear communication.

The technique ‘sandwiches’ the hard message between two supportive or affirming statements.

The Top slice is a positive opening: Start with appreciation, care, or shared values.

The Filling is the potentially difficult message: Clearly and respectfully state the concern.

The Bottom slice is the positive close: End with reassurance and support.

Video

About a minute to potentially help bring some focus for 2026. Some of these may be just up your alley.

https://youtu.be/u6LopvYgbW0

Jokes

What do New Year’s Day parades have in common with Santa Claus? No one is awake to see either of them.

What is a New Year’s resolution? Something that goes in one year and out the other.

What do you call someone who says they know all the words to ‘Auld Lang Syne’? A liar.

What New Year’s resolution should a basketball player never make? To travel more.

Why did the man sprinkle sugar on his pillow on New Year’s Eve? He wanted to start the year with sweet dreams.

What should people never eat on New Year's Eve? Firecrackers.

Questions of the Week

What are you focused on?

What small decision completely changed your life?

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Taking Care of Business

Please use the form at https://app.onechurchsoftware.com/pucc/forms/13 for all announcements for our media. Best practice can be to type your details in a Word document and then copy those details into the form. Bulletin and eNews deadline: noon Monday. You should receive a confirmation email when you have successfully submitted your request.

Livestream Worship services at PUCC YouTube Channel HERE
There is also 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

PUCC GOOGLE REVIEW
Love our church? Want people to know how great it is and how welcome they would be here? Help spread the word by writing a Google review.

Here's how to submit your review:
1. Make sure you are logged in to your Google account. You can do this

on the upper right-hand side of the page.
2. Do a Google search for Parkway United Church of Christ. Among the search results should be a separate listing for PUCC on the right side of the page. Look down this section to find and click on the “Write a Review” button.
3. You will be prompted to rate PUCC and write a review. You can add photos of PUCC if you'd like though this is optional. When finished, simply click the “post” or “submit” button.

DOWNLOAD OUR PUCC APP TODAY!
For Android, click here!
For Apple, click here!

Parkway UCC's App is a robust tool that helps us connect and communicate easily. One Church is a gamechanger that will help us to be more vital. Click **here** to see the instructions for downloading the app.

Our online member directory is a feature many of you have been waiting for! We take your privacy seriously. The directory is accessible only to PUCC members and staff who use their password to login.

We have also begun using our new front door keypad installed on the brick wall to the right of the doors by our Safety Team. Please select your own unique 4-digit code and send it to **gabriel@parkwayucc.org** so we can load it into the keypad and troubleshoot as needed.

We are happy to help you with anything and everything One Church – including taking your profile photo on Sunday mornings!

One Church Support
Join us with your phone, tablet or laptop as our One Church Team offers support, shortcuts and strategies to make your experience with our software and app more fruitful and enjoyable. People with all levels of experience with One Church are welcome to stop by the large

bulletin board in the Gathering Space before or after worship this Sunday. Cindy will be there!
Questions? Please reach out to:
Cindy Nouri cynthianouri@gmail.com
Barb Harris barbharris@charter.net
Gabriel Requadt gabriel@Parkwayucc.org

Parkway United Church of Christ
(314) 872 9330 contact@parkwayucc.org
2841 N Ballas Road,
St. Louis, MO 63131

We appreciate your submissions of jokes, quotes, photos, videos, weekly opportunities, scriptures that are important to you, hymn/song suggestions, poetry, etc. We would love to hear from you: contact@parkwayucc.org

PUCC eNews is published weekly in order to broadcast Parkway UCC events and happenings - and items of interest to the Parkway UCC community of faith. Please submit all communications requests, by noon Monday.

Staff Configuration and Hours:
Gabriel is in the main office from 8:30am-4:30pm Monday thru Thursday, and on Sundays 8am-12pm as he focuses on Christian Education, Youth Ministry and Administrative Support gabriel@parkwayucc.org

Katie is our Nursery Childcare Provider, giving loving care to all of God's young on Sundays from 8:50am-12:20pm. gabriel@parkwayucc.org

Kathy is our building and calendar guru and is in the front entry office from 7:30-11:30am Wednesday - Thursday and available via email and phone other mornings.
kathy@parkwayucc.org

Dawn, our Bookkeeper, is in the office a few days each month and is available via email and phone from her home in Florida.
dawn@parkwayucc.org

Kevin is around each day but Thursday. He is available for emergencies 24/7/365 at 314-330-0629; kevin@parkwayucc.org