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Worship With Us this Sunday, January 4

Worship with us at 9am this Sunday! Join us here at PUCC or on YouTube Live (@parkviewucc), or participate any time later in person or online.

Sunday worship leader Isaiah And if you'd like to Take the Story Home from Sunday School, click here!

Songs include: *Christ the Dayspring / Let the Three Kings of Orient Are*, *Spirit of the Living God*, *The Little Light of Mine*, *Let It Flames and Tongues Descend*.

Our gospel lesson is the journey of the magi in Matthew 2:1-12. As this season of Christmas comes to a close, we're reminded that the work of God is ever at work, always and inspiration does it have an us today? How will this first Sunday of the new year be a time of renewal for you? Come and find out.

We will celebrate the sacrament of communion at our open table. All are welcome to receive the sacrament served. If you are with us in person, you'll receive a small cup of juice, bread, or wine, or you can bring your own.

Prayer Partner Before and After Worship this Sunday
Would you like to pray with someone? Sign up to be a prayer partner for this Sunday's worship service. We will have the powerful combination of prayer and fellowship. Arrive at 8:45 and prayer partners will be matched up. Then you'll pray with your partner before the service. Stay to pray as you sit for the 9 am about your prayer request. She will offer an opportunity to pray with you after the service. Sign up on the sheet in the narthex or call the church office. Prayer partners are guided by God's infinite love, presence and support... and they are also guided by you! Your prayer partner will be blessed as they are transformed into peace and confidence.

Third Sunday Offering will be Jonah in January. Please plan to join us on the first Sundays of the rest of 2025. We gather in the sanctuary at 9am to worship, fellowship, and learn. Our offering this month will be for Jonah's ministry.

It's **Give-A-Meal Sunday**. Please bring gifts of non-perishable food items and/or personal care items for our neighbors in the city and county. Donations will be given to Meals on Wheels.

Lunch is suggested for the Sunday of Epiphany, January 5th. The Combined Congregations https://www.circlesofsojourn.org/news-bulletin/newsletter

Nursery Sunday Hours in Room 6
Nursery is available on Sunday mornings is also open before worship from 9:00–10:00am and after worship from 10:45–11:30am. Please sign up on the sheet in the nursery. Thank you to the following for signing up to help in the nursery: **Jessica Wilson** and **Jessica Wilson**. Please add your name to the list of potential drivers and will receive an email once we have a request for a ride.

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Prayer List Updates as of December 26

The 12 Days of Christmas.
Lee Ann Hall
Those diagnosed with cancer of the tongue (tumor).
Groovy Alexis Simmon - new granddaughter for Ellie Simmon.
Gale Moran - undergoing chemo for cancer of the tongue.
Individuals and families grieving at the holidays - including the **Ellie Simmon** family, the **Jeff Simmon** family, and the **Jeff Van Meter** - family after the death of Jeff's father.
Greg Schmeltz's father - healing after recent hospital and rehab center stay.
Jeff Rasmussen - recovering after a recent stay in the hospital.
Lemelda and Joe Martinez - grieving their daughter's passing.
The Continuing war in the Middle East.
For the lives neighbors finding their way after tornado in May.

Drivers Needed
Drivers to help the PUCCers are in need of rides to medical appts when their usual circle of support is unavailable. Some is our church family members, but we have a few others as well.

Please contact Kimberly Irvine via email or call 314-488-5636. We've 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



If you would like to make a financial pledge toward our mission and ministry for 2026, please visit https://parkviewucc.org/giving/

Rooted in Love: Cultivating a life of generosity, compassion, action and spirited inquiry rooted in love and moving forward. We envision a community where all are welcome, where faith is nurtured through connection, where spirituality is lived boldly through service, where courageous action and interfaith partnerships to fulfill God's calling to create a just world for all.



FUNDrive Planned for Jan-March 2026 Clean out your closets & garages for the upcoming FUNDrive!

Parkview United Church of Christ is sponsoring a FUNdrive for two worthy organizations.

We Eco-Stewards, with funds going toward maintaining and improving the church's environmentally friendly practices.

Parkview Youth, with funds going toward their mission trips.

We have bags and packing instruction available in the Gathering Space and in the Narthex. Please bring your donations to the church office as boxes of small household goods, books, and media on **Sunday, January 4**. The drive will continue through **March 7**. Don't forget to tell about what you can donate to support these causes and streamline your efforts to help others.

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

Several people have been asking about donating furniture. While this is not the time for that, we have received items and donating have Home Sweet Home!, a furniture bank that partners with under-served communities throughout the St. Louis region to provide furniture, free of charge, to individuals and families rebuilding their lives. Contact https://homesweethomestl.org/ or 314-448-9838.

Questions—contact Polly Rutherford, pollyrutherford@gmail.com



Speaker Series Parkview's Speaker Series is back!

Sunday, January 4, The Home and Work of WWI's Codebreakers by Patricia Bechtly, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of History, Fontbonne University

Bletchley Park, in England, was the top-secret center of the World War II "Codebreakers." A term for the over 9,000 men and women who worked there to break the codes of the German military. Their work was so secret that they could not tell anyone, not even their family and friends, and never cracked." Our speakers, Patty Smith, is a retired St. Louisan who has researched and written about the Codebreakers.

Mr. Smith will explore Bletchley Park's history from 1938 to 1946, including the women who were recruited there and detailing how German messages were captured and decoded during the Battle of the Atlantic. Dr. Bechtly will discuss the home and work lives of the women who worked at Bletchley Park.

AAHOE Meeting Change of Date for January 2026
Thursday, January 8, 2026
9:15am | Fellowship Hall

The topic of AAHOE will meet on Thursday, January 8 instead of the first Thursday of each month. All are welcome to join us for a time of fellowship and good coffee.



Authentic Selves Celebrating Trans and Nonbinary People & Their Allies

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

Join us for a time of fellowship, food, and LGBTQ+ Faith Alliance in welcoming the Family Diversity Project's photo exhibit, "Authentic Selves" to the Gathering Space at Parkview UCC in Webster Groves.

Opening night reception features guest Jordon Brandon, a longtime St. Louis resident who has been married three and dealing how Jordon's Health Services Planning Council. Refreshments will be served.

This is a great opportunity for us to open our doors to welcome a wider and enjoy a continental breakfast before the meeting. The church will be on snow through Feb. 8.

Please RSVP by Jan. 23 here.

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



Witnessing Whiteness PUCC Study Group begins in January on Zoom

Were forming a Witnessing Whiteness learning circle using Shelly Tochluk's book *Witnessing Whiteness*. The book is a guide to racial awareness and antiracist action. Shelly is a white author who has created here in St. Louis through the YWCA and become internet and workshop presenter. She has been featured on Oprah and NPR.

It's a supportive, no-shame space where white-identifying people can explore their racial identity, learn about white supremacy and how it has more courage, compassion, and clarity in our diverse and hurting world. Participants will be invited to join in a monthly book discussion via Zoom and to meet in person with their learning circle group every other month on the day in America.

This expertise is needed - just curiosity, and a deeply rooted problem is in the needs way by the group. We're looking for a group of between 6 people in our land are attempting to rewrite our nation's racial history and to whitewash the past. Our group will meet on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, starting in January. Please see an example of this is a rebuttal to 1619 where the 1776 Commission Report. Please let us know if you're interested in joining us.

We have the right and duty to do what we can to understand the roots of our racial problems and to work toward a more equitable society than we can be. Our faith calls us to rise to this opportunity and challenge. Please join us in this study. Sign up on the sheet and guide you into being a more aware and justice-minded/hearted person.

Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex or contact Debbie Reinhardt at debeyreinhardt@att.net.

This experience is Free We ask that you purchase the book — let me know if you need help with that. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex or contact Debbie Reinhardt at debeyreinhardt@att.net.

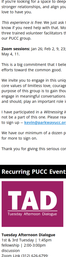
I have participated in a Witnessing Whiteness Group in the past and will not be a part of this one. Please reach out to me with any questions by email to debeyreinhardt@att.net.

We have our minimum of a dozen people committed and have room for a few more.

Thank you for giving this serious conversation the time it deserves.

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Recurring PUCC Events



Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue
10 & 24 Tuesdays | 1:45pm
Fellowship | 2:00-3:00pm
Gathering Space

Contact Jeff Rasmussen
Meeting ID: 836 7901 7428
Passcode: 490000

Please join with TAD as we meet and discuss Tom Lane, a friend of Ann Patchett, in 5 sessions on Tuesdays, 2:00 - 3:00 pm, beginning January 6th.

In the spring of 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Lane's three grandchildren, ages 4, 6, and 8, arrived in Northern Michigan. While picking cherries, they they would be staying with him for part of her life years before at a theater company called Tom Lab to Lucie Hucks Dyer, the daughters examine their own lives and relationships with their children and the world and everything they thought they knew about their father, Tom Hanks and the Academy Award winner from 2 Jigsaw. For more info, please contact Jeffrey3@gmail.com

Tuesday Evening Dialogue
2nd and 4th Tuesdays | 6:45pm
Heritage Room
Contact Debbie 314-849-4833 RTC: Thursday 6-7:30

Please join us at TED for friendship and lively food discussion. Upcoming topics are TBA. Please let us know if you will be discussing the book Lisa Cleary's Book Club. Please let us know if you will be joining us. We will read what you bought out book, but it also would be fun to have you bring a book to share with the group. Please check out the TED page on the church website. We read a variety of books in TED related to social justice, spirituality, and current events. Please join us for fellowship and lively discussion. Newcomers are always welcome.

Please join us in person at 6pm or on Zoom beginning at 7pm. Contact Helen Rice at revhelen@att.net for questions.



Prayer Corner: an opportunity to pray together

Drop-In Prayer Time. Kevin will be in the Prayer Corner on Wednesday, January 7th, if you'd like to pray together.

If you can't make it over there, simply wait a bit in the Gathering Space.

We can arrange a phone call or Zoom meeting if you'd like. You can also reach out to kevinbeard@swbell.net



Interfaith Interfaith! Speed Friending and Learning

Saturday, Jan 17 | Evening | Fellowship Hall | Contact Jeff Rasmussen

Please save the date for an interesting evening of delicious soups and meaningful conversation with our peach friends from Shaare Emeth Congregation, Parkview UCC, Tree Faiths from FAIZAH - the Faith Activation Society of Missouri, We will have an opportunity to get to know one another as we engage in conversations around a variety of topics. Please contact Jeff Rasmussen at jeffrasmussen1@sbcglobal.net



Go AWOL this Winter - Adventurous Women Out Late! Wednesday, January 14 | 6pm | Heritage Room

Join other PUCC women for a monthly adventure! Each adventure will provide an "eh" wee heart and a chance to connect in person. Please bring other craft. Each month will be a different theme, such as dinner, movies, fake flowers, or anything else you can imagine. Please let us know if you're interested in a heart wreath... and give it your own personal touch. Please let requested for supplies when you RSVP. Please RSVP to Debbie Rice at revhelen@att.net. Please appetizer or finger food to share with the group. Please RSVP to revhelen@att.net. Let's get beginning at 7pm that some adventure! Contact Carmen Bumgarner - cfbumgarner@att.net.

Rooted in Faith and Justice Christian Faith to Conscience & Civic Engagement

Thursday evenings starting February 5 | 6pm | Zoom

In the December, the Church Council adopted a motion to the affirmation of certain positions from the United Church's Resolution "Declaration for an End to Genocide in Palestine." We affirm that all made in God's image and are entitled to all the free from oppression, persecution, and violence. We reject any theology or ideology including Christian Zionism that justifies discrimination, violence, or the dehumanization of any people. We reject all antisemitism, anti-Arab racism, hate, culture or religion within God's universal economy of love.

Parkway United Church of Christ is encouraged to receive this Declaration as a profession of faith and to stand in solidarity with all oppressed people, domestic and abroad, and to condemn all violence and hatred. We call on the Church to denounce all forms of oppression and violence, and to reject any theology or ideology, including any arguments, contrary to the gospels of peace and the love of God for all humanity.

In an effort to live into this, we'll be offering a five-week reading club of Rooted in Faith and Justice. Each week will be a chance to engage in enlightening perspective through the eyes of Palestinian Christian theologians. We'll read and discuss the Church's position and how it can be applied to civic engagement conflict. Each week, we'll cover a different section, starting with section 1. Click here to get a copy of this text, contact Gabriel Requadt gabriel@parkwayucc.org

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Other PUCC News



Parkway UCC DNA-Related Groups
There are difficult times in our state and country for LGBTQIAQ2+ – Black, Indigenous and People of Color – and for Jewish people. We wish there was something I could do to help." Well, there is something you can do.

The second group is the **LGBTQIA Faith Alliance**. It includes representatives from 30 faith traditions across the St. Louis region who are dedicated to engaging in LGBTQIA+ advocacy. Learn more here.

The first group is the Parkway UCC DNA-Related Groups. These are difficult times in our state and country for LGBTQIAQ2+ – Black, Indigenous and People of Color – and for Jewish people. We wish there was something I could do to help." Well, there is something you can do.

For more information, contact Rev. Deborah Johnston deborahjohnston@aol.net

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Winter Opportunities for Good Samaritans

North St. Louis Tornado Relief, Food. Please add extra nonperishable food items to your shopping list this week and throughout the winter season for Sunday give-aways to people affected by the St. Louis tornado. Items needed include: in-marked containers in the lobby. Suggested items are canned green beans, corn, fruit, sweet potatoes, soups, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, pasta, rice, and macaroni and cheese. Thank you for your continued generosity and loving hearts.

North St. Louis Tornado Relief, mothballed. Our church is a collection point for Planned Parenthood as they gather diapers, baby wipes, formula, and baby food for families in need. Please add these items to your shopping list this week and throughout the autumn season. Please place items in the marked container in the Gathering Space.

Questions? Please contact Sally Dodge s.dodge@hotmail.com or Evelyn Burris burrisevelyn@gmail.com

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PUCC Marketplace

PUCC Shirts Available for Sale! Parkway UCC shirts are now available! Stop by the welcome desk or go! Our new church t-shirts are available for sale! Pick up one of everything from Sunday worship! Proceeds support the Pastor Nathan our church intern. Hope you can wear your faith out loud. Cost is $20 each. Let us know your variety of sizes. Purchase your shirt by clicking here!

For any questions, contact Gabriel gabriel@parkwayucc.org

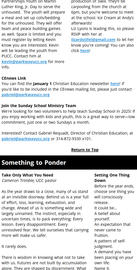
New Book! *Advocacy Made Easy* by Parkway UCC Member Our own Parkway member Kevin Cole has written a book titled *How to Turn Civic Frustration into Civic Action*. Available on Amazon. This concise, 70-page guide offers practical strategies for effective advocacy and explains how to effectively engage with elected officials at every level of government. It includes updated information on the 2024 election cycle, weighing in on advocacy, and crafting persuasive messages that get results. Click here. Autographed copies will be available for purchase for $15 through the church office. Click here for more information or to join the waiting list. Questions? kevinlcole@charter.net

Community Happenings

PUCC GOOGLE REVIEWS



Christian Education Updates



Day of Service in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day Monday, January 19, 2026 | 9:30am-1:30pm | 3772 Shaw Ave., St. Louis, 63110

Youth 12-17 years of age are welcome to join interfaith Partnerships Youth on Martin Luther King Jr. Day to serve the community. We will be meeting at the church at 9:30am and carpooling for the unhoused. They will offer a light breakfast and lunch as well. Space is limited and you must RSVP to participate. If you have questions, please see will be leading the youth from PUCC. Contact Jessica Kerth@parkwayucc.org for more information.

Come Support PUCC#1 Youth Sew In Area Friday, January 23 | 6:30-9pm Kirkwood High School

Come show your support for PUCC#1's very own Zoe as she stars in the student-led production of Sew. They'll be carpooling from the church at 6:30pm and will be back at the church at 9:30pm for drinks afterwards! If your parents is leading this, so please RSVP to Jessica Kerth@parkwayucc.org to let her know you're coming! You can also click here!

CEmoes Link
Please join us for the **January 1** Christian Education newsletter here! If you'd like to be included in the CEmoes mailing list, please just contact Jessica Kerth@parkwayucc.org

Join the Sunday School Ministry Team Are you interested in helping with Sunday School in 2026? If you enjoy working with kids and youth, this is a great way to serve—few commitments are required! Please contact Jessica Kerth.

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Something to Ponder

Take Only What You Need Matthew 6:25-34, NRSV pastor

As the year draws to a close, many of us are in a season of abundance. We have all of effort, too, learning, exhaustion, and joy. We have had the chance to gather with friends and family, to share meals and uncertain times, is to be exciting. Parkway has been a community where we have unresolved fear. We will ourselves that anything is possible.

It rarely does.

There is wisdom in knowing what we can't control. We are not God. We are not built to sustain the weight of the world's problems. And when we carry forward determines how freely we can give and how much we can receive.

And there is another truth we rarely name: some things person simply because we have not yet learned to let go.

We keep carrying expectations that no longer serve us. We keep carrying roles that have helped us survive but now quietly limit us. We keep carrying fear disguised as responsibility. Carrying is not always noble. Sometimes it is the most mistaken evolution for faithfulness.

None of these are failures. Most of them were once adaptive. They helped us survive. They helped us endure. And that season has passed. The threshold into a new year does not require us to become lighter by dropping what has mattered. It asks us to become more honest about what is still ours to hold and what is not. It asks us to notice the difference between what we need and what we have simply been carrying.

What do you truly need to take with you?

Perhaps you need the clarity earned through difficulty. Perhaps you need a renewed sense of belonging. Perhaps you need the courage to say no more often and to rest without guilt. Perhaps you need gratitude, not as performance, but as posture.

Commitment, but not control.

The future does not ask us to arrive empty-handed. It asks us to arrive unburdened.

There is a settle-feed ahead. It does not demand proof of worth or performance. It responds to presence, to trust, to grace. The quiet integrity of someone who has chosen to live honestly with their resources and their time.

As you stand at this threshold, you are not being evaluated. You are being invited.

Take what you need.

Release the rest.

And trust that the ground ahead can meet you when you do.

Video

If you like the idea of goal setting at the start of the year, but you don't like to slow this 13-minute video – it's a great way to start the year.

Jokes

Why did the calendar break up with the clock?
It felt like there was no…

What's a New Year's resolution?
Something to keep jumping to conclusions.

Why did the champagne bottle go to therapy?
It couldn't handle the pressure.

Why did the broom get invited to the New Year's party?
It was outstanding!

Questions of the Week

What have you done worth remembering?

Where do you find strength when things are hard?

How would you describe your 2025 in one sentences?

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Taking Care of Business

Phone Directory
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfmnnnnTJ0 for all parkwayucc.org email addresses. Please feel free to type your details in a Word document and then copy those details into the form. Bulletin and Newsletter submissions are due by Tuesday at noon. Submissions received after this time may be accidentally omitted.

Livestream Weekly Worship Service – PUCC Website HERE
There is also a subscribe button under the main heading and brief description of our church. Thank you! Contact Jessica Kerth Jessica Kerth@parkwayucc.org or cemthanson@gmail.com

Zoom Accounts
Love our church? Want people to know how great it is and how welcoming we are? Help us keep the spread the word by writing a Google Ad Grant.

Here's how to submit your review:
1. Make sure you are logged in to your Google account. You can do this by opening Google Maps and clicking Sign In.
2. Search for Parkway United Church of Christ in Google Maps. Your search results should be a separate listing for PUCC on the right side of the map. Click on the listing and then click on the "Write a Review" button.
3. Rate your experience with PUCC and write a review. You can add photos if you'd like, but this step is optional. When finished, click "Post" to submit your review.

Download the PUCC APP TODAY!
For Android, click here!
For Google, click here!

Parkway UCC's App is a robust tool that helps us connect and communicate easily. Our church is a gamechanger that will help us to grow in many ways. Use the app to stay connected and informed.

Our online member directory is a feature many of you have been waiting for! We are excited to announce that it is now available and ready to use 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 Gathering Space door. Please use the code 1776 to enter the building. Please do not share this code with anyone. Email **gabriel@parkwayucc.org** to get the code to enter the keypad and troubleshoot as needed.

We are happy to help you with anything and everything One Church, One Database. Please reach out to us with questions.

One Church Support
Use your phone, tablet or laptop as our One Church Team offers support, shortcuts and strategies to make your experience with One Church Software easier. Our goal is to help you get the most out of your experience with One Church Software and to be a part of the larger bulletin board in the Gathering Space before or after worship this Sunday and Sunday, January 11.
Contact Gabriel Requadt gabriel@parkwayucc.org

Parkway United Church of Christ
Gabriel Requadt, Director of Technology gabriel@parkwayucc.org
2841 N Ballas Road,
St. Louis, MO 63131

We appreciate your submissions of jokes, quotes, photos, videos, announcements, and anything else you feel important to you. Any feedback, suggestions, poetry, etc. We would love to hear from you. Jessica Kerth@parkwayucc.org

PUCC#News is published weekly in order to broadcast Parkway UCC events and happenings. Please send your submissions to the Parkway UCC community of faith. Please submit all communications requests, by Tuesday at noon.

Staff Configuration and Hours
Gabriel is in the church office from 9:30am-4:30pm Monday thru Thursday, and on Sundays 8am-12pm as he focuses on Christian Education and Church Technology.
gabriel@parkwayucc.org

Jessica is in the church office Monday-Friday, going long cuts to all of days going on Sundays from 9:30am-12:30pm. jessica Kerth@parkwayucc.org

Pastor Nathan is in the office a few days each month and is also available by phone and zoom from her home in Florida.
Nathan Bowden