PARKWAY
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
ALL ACCEPTED, NO EXCEPTIONS

LIMITLESS LOVE
COURAGEOUS ACTION
SPIRITED INQUIRY

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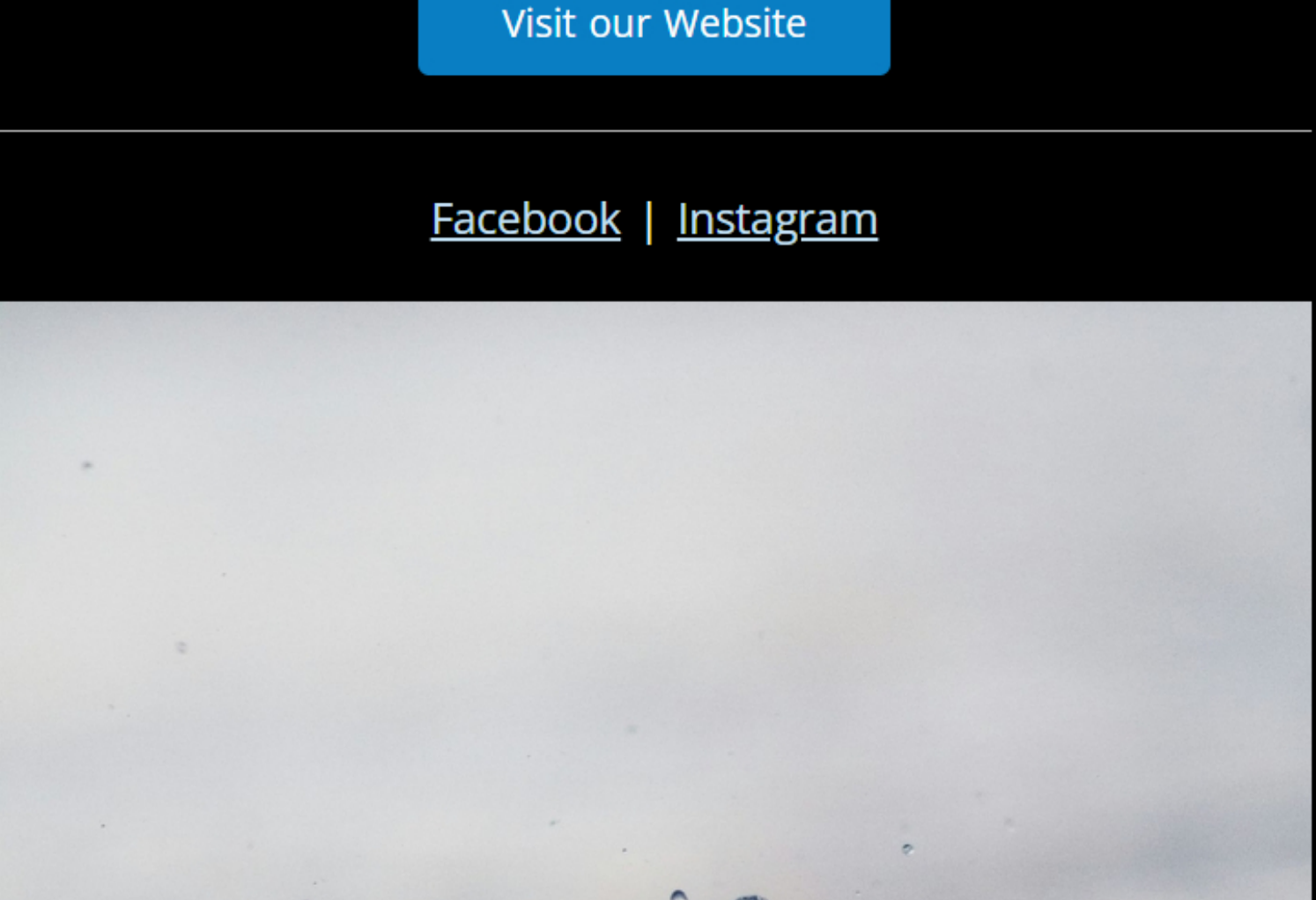

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Worship With Us this Sunday, January 9

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

It's the Baptism of Christ Sunday.

Isaiah 42:1-9 sets the scene, reminding us of God's plan for a servant that is filled with the Spirit and is focused on justice. This servant will embody covenant, light and freedom.

Matthew 3:13-17 tells the story of Jesus' baptism at the hands of his cousin John in the Jordan River. John doesn't feel qualified to do this, but Jesus convinces him. God responds with a blessing in word and action.
What does Jesus' baptism mean to us today? Why do we continue the practice of Baptism and what significance do we assign to it now?

Worship bulletin **here**!

Songs include: *Gather Us In; You Have Searched Me, Lord, And Known Me; Spirit of the Living God; Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands; What A Friend We Have in Jesus; The Lord's Prayer; This is My Song*

Prayer Partner Before and After Worship this Sunday
Gabriel Requadt is available this Sunday in the front left corner of the sanctuary before and after worship to pray confidentially with individuals. He is a trained prayer chaplain. He will call on the presence of God and help create a safe spiritual space. Gabriel will listen to you as you tell him a bit about your prayer request. He will offer an affirmative prayer out loud, reminding you of your inner strengths rather than asking God for a specific outcome. He will pray that you are guided by God's infinite love, presence and support… and that any joy or gratitude will be multiplied and any fear or doubt will be transformed into peace and confidence.

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**

Palestinian Dance Group in St Louis on Saturday, January 10
We just learned of this yesterday and wanted to pass it along in case anyone is interested. Please consider this…
https://www.stlpr.org/culture-history/2026-01-08/canaan-wellspring-palestinian-dance-st-louis
Tickets: https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/jafra

Lunch with Marthoma Congregation after worship on January 25
Plan to stay after worship for a meal, friendship and a brief mission project! More details coming!

Prayer List Updates as of January 9

Epiphany, epiphanies and The New Year.
Alvaro - as he finishes his semester here this week (Mike/Gerry Rogers).
The Hoxie Kaplan Family as they grieve and give thanks for Mildred.
Diane Doty - hospitalized; cancer testing (Grant's mom).
Jeff Wentworth - nearing the end of his life; hospice care (Grove).
Howard - just diagnosed with cancer of the tongue (Svenson).
Senobia and Joe Martin - grieving their daughter; Joe is ill (Grove).
Derek - end stage alcoholism; grace for his father David (Akers).
Ongoing chaos/grief in the Middle East.
The continuing war with Ukraine and Russia.
The people and leaders of Venezuela.
The grief and groaning of Minneapolis and the nation over the death of Renee Nicole Good.
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.

Grieving with Minneapolis by Maren C. Tirabassi

God, tender with all the crucifixions
in the world,
we bring our sadness for the loss
of Renee Nicole Good,
our anger at its injustice,
our fear in waking every morning
in the midst of a lawlessness
which masks as law.

We set down our own feelings,
for these moments,
to simply pray for love
and tender memories to bring comfort
to her parents, her children, her wife,
her many friends,
gentleness to surround
those who witnessed her death
and all living in the neighborhood
where she was killed,
and, if it be possible,
peace for those whose hunting-down,
she had come to witness,

for we pray in the name of the One,
who always answers with love,
"who is my neighbor?" amen.

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PUCC Announcements

🍪Girl Scouts Cookie Sale🍪
Alright PUCC Family, *ready to purchase your favorite Girl Scout Cookies?* Now it's easier than ever! You can order these delicious, purpose-filled cookies through the Digital Cookie site. We've got several PUCCer who are Girl Scouts, and it would be mighty fine of us as a faith community to support them.

The best part? When you order Girl Scout Cookies from one of them, you're helping them learn essential life skills—all while supporting the largest girl-led entrepreneurial program in the world.

Cookie proceeds stay local, so your purchase helps them and their Girl Scout troop experience amazing adventures all year long.

If you've already bought Girl Scout Cookies this year, thank you! There's still time to place another order. Consider stocking up for yourself, buying for friends and family, or donating to Project Thank You. You can also consider purchasing extra cookies for the collegian care packages we send in the Spring. Just purchase those cookies like the other ones, but when your cookies arrive, we will have a basket in the Gathering Space you can place them.

Please let **gabriel@parkwayucc.org** know if there are other PUCCers selling cookies:
Evelyn Tallyn **here**
Avery Delannay **here**
Kacey Brueggemann **here**
Paige Brueggemann **here**
If you'd like to add your child to this list, please reach out to **gabriel@parkwayucc.org**

Adventurers Meet Up at the Old Spaghetti Factory
Thursday, January 15 | 11:30am-1:30pm | 17384 Chesterfield Airport Rd

Are you hungry for pasta and conversation? Please join us and meet some PUCC friends as we get together for lunch at the Old Spaghetti Factory in Chesterfield. We'll meet at the restaurant right as it opens at 11:30am. Please RSVP by Tuesday, January 13 to Jackie Eiffert, **jeiffert2@gmail.com**

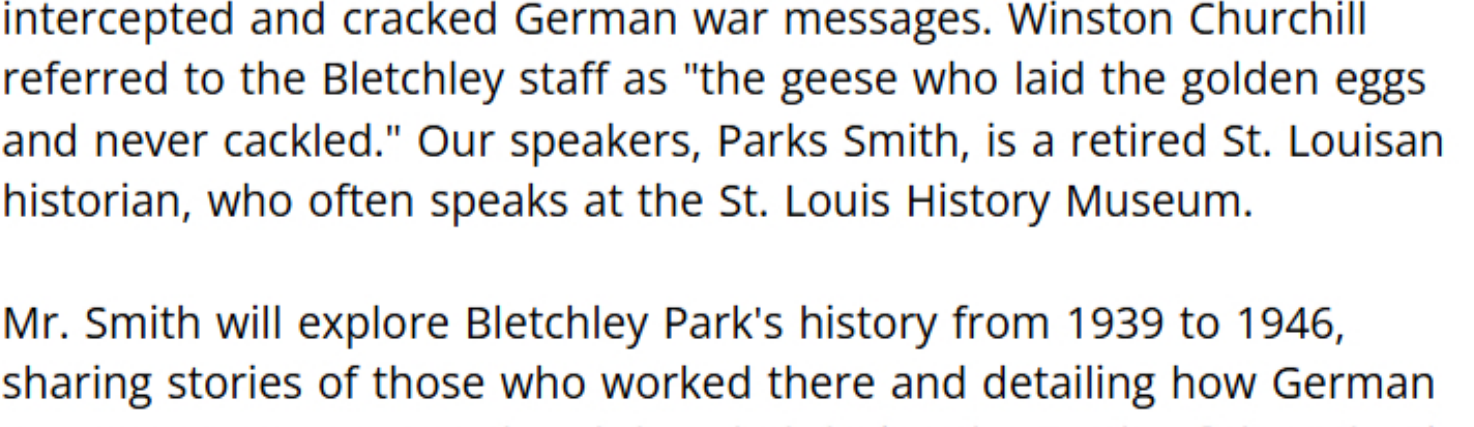
PARKWAY
SPEAKER
SERIES

Speaker Series Occasional opportunities after worship at 11:15am
"Bletchley Park; the Home of WWII's Codebreakers," by Parks Smith. Sunday, January 18 | 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**



Authentic Selves: Celebrating Trans and Nonbinary People & Their Families
Saturday, January 24 | 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 UCC from **January 24 through February 8**. Opening Night Reception features guest Jordon Braxton, a longtime St. Louis advocate for trans rights and a member of the St. Louis City HIV Health Services Planning Council. Refreshments will be served.

A second opening will be the next morning, **January 25** from 9-10am with the opportunity to view the exhibit and enjoy a continental breakfast before worship.

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

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

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. This approach was created here in St Louis through the YWCA and become timelier and more necessary after Michael Brown was killed over ten years ago.

It's a 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. White people need to learn what black, indigenous and people of color already know about their history and the systems that effect then every day in America.

No expertise is needed - just curiosity and a willingness to reflect in community. This will take place on Zoom - Mondays 6:30-8:30pm - so it doesn't matter where you live or if you travel.

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 – let me know if you need help with that. More guidance will be provided by our three trained volunteer facilitators that have been assigned to shepherd our PUCC group.

Zoom sessions: Jan 26; Feb 2, 9, 23; Mar 2, 9, 23, 30; Apr 6, 13, 20, 27; May 4, 11.

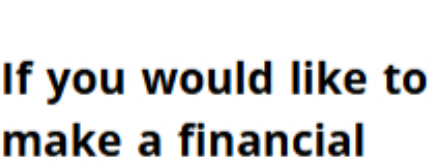
This is a big commitment that I believe is worth every moment in our efforts toward the common good.

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 me with any questions or to sign up -- **kevin@parkwayucc.org**

We have our minimum of a dozen people committed and have room for three more to sign on.

Thank you for giving this serious consideration for the new year.



If you would like to make a financial pledge toward our mission and ministry for 2026, please visit ***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 to fulfill God's calling to create a just world for all.

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. We have bags and packing instruction available in the Gathering Space and are collecting bags of clothing and household textiles, as well as boxes of small household goods, books, and media. 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 on Sundays. If dropping off items during the week, please coordinate with Gabriel at **gabriel@parkwayucc.org** for a time that works. Questions-contact Polly Rutherford, **pollyrutherford@gmail.com**

[Some have asked about donating furniture. This drive does not include furniture, so contact Home Sweet Home - **https://homesweethomestl.org/]**

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Recurring PUCC Events

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 at TED for friendship and lively book discussions. Our next meeting is Tuesday **Jan 13** and we will be discussing the book *Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books* by Kirsten Miller. This novel will make you laugh out loud, but it also brings to life how much books can change how you think and look at life. The author works in pertinent issues of our times including censorship, racism, homophobia and misogyny among others. We will be covering the first 100 pages when we meet on **Jan 13**. We read a variety of books in TED related to social justice, spirituality, different faiths, history, relationships, current events and nature. Bring a dish to share for the potluck & join us for our next conversation! Newcomers are always welcome!

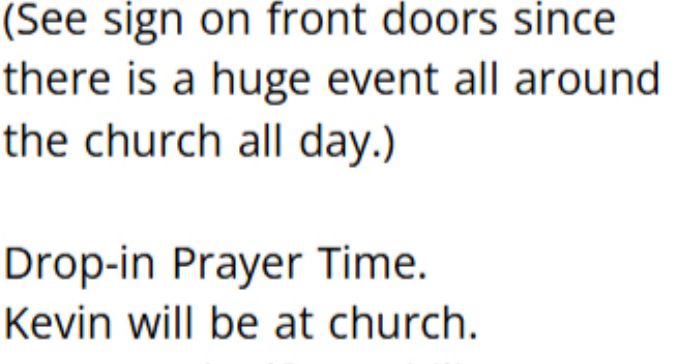
Please join us in person at 6pm or on Zoom starting at 6:45pm. Contact Helen Race at **raceh@att.net** for questions.

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 as we read and discuss *Tom Lake*, a novel by Ann Patchett, in 2 more sessions on **January 20, and February 3**. We'd love to have you!

In the spring of 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Lara's three daughters return to the family's orchard in Northern Michigan. While picking cherries, they beg their mother to tell them the story of her life years before at a theater company called Tom Lake. As Lara recalls the past, her daughters examine their own lives and relationship with their mother and are forced to reconsider the world and everything they thought they knew. Fellowship starts at 1:45pm and the book discussion is from 2-3pm. For more info, please contact **jeiffert2@gmail.com**

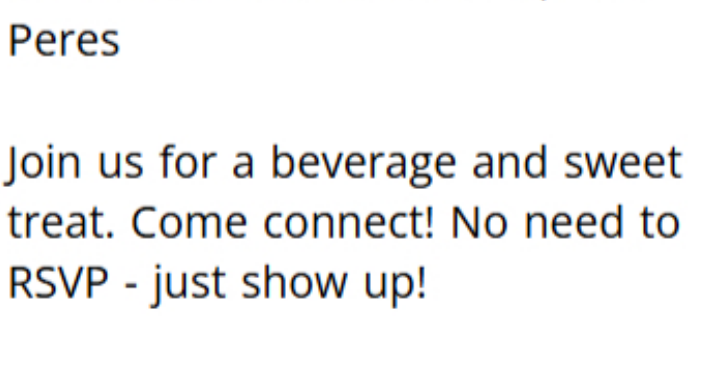


Prayer Partner: an opportunity to pray with someone
Saturday, January 10 | 7-9am
in Kevin's Office.
(See sign on front doors since there is a huge event all around the church all day.)

Drop-in Prayer Time.
Kevin will be at church.
Come on by if you'd like to pray together. Please text Kevin (314-330-0629) when you arrive.

Upcoming dates in the Sanctuary:
Wednesday, Feb 11 from 7-9am;
Tuesday, March 24 from 3-5pm;
Wednesday, April 29 from 6-8pm;
Monday, May 18 from 1-3pm;
Wednesday, June 17 from 9-11am

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



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!

Upcoming dates:
Monday, Feb 23 at 10am;
Wednesday, March 25 at 2pm;
Friday, April 17 at 10am;
Tuesday, May 12 at 2pm;
Monday, June 29 at 7pm

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

Intertwine Interfaith: Speed Faithing and Soup Slurping
Saturday, Jan 17 | 5:30-7:45pm | Shaare Emeth at Ballas and Ladue Rd

Please save the date for an interesting evening of delicious soups and meaningful conversation with our Jewish friends from Shaare Emeth Congregation and our Muslim friends from TASOM – the Turkish American Society of Missouri). We will have the opportunity to really intertwine as we engage in brief conversations around a variety of topics. This will be a very meaningful and memorable event that you don't want to miss! Click here for more information about the unique evening: Intertwine Interfaith Program - Form - Congregation Shaare Emeth
For more info, contact Lisa Mason lmason624@sbcglobal.net or Paige Penico andipaige@hotmail.com Please RSV P by January 15.

Go AWOL this Winter – Adventurous Women Out Late
Saturday, January 24 | 4pm | Heritage Room

Join other PUCC women for a crafty/snacky late afternoon! PUCC will provide an 18" wire heart frame and some craft items to peruse. Please bring other craft items to share: cloth, old clothes to cut up, felt, baubles, ribbons, fake flowers, or anything else you have cluttering up your house and you might picture on a heart wreath… and a glue gun if you have one!) $10 donation requested for supplies when you sign up via One Church. Click here to register. Please bring an appetizer or finger food to share also! (Stay afterwards for the ONA photo exhibit kick-off beginning at 7pm that same evening!)

Look for other upcoming events:

Sunday, February 22 @2pm Primary Trust at The Repertory Theater. Join us as we experience the winner of the 2024 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, Eboni Booth's hilarious and heartwarming play offers up a modern, tiki-lit homage to slices of Americana such as Our Town, Harvey, and It's a Wonderful Life. Kenneth's predictable life - Mai Tais at his favorite bar and a steady job at a local bookstore - begins to unravel, forcing him to confront a childhood loss and the uncertainties of adulthood. With guidance from an imaginary friend, a kind waitress, and a splash of liquid courage, he discovers that trust, love, and friendship - much like the perfect Mai Tai - are best mixed in unexpected ways. Tickets are $40. Click here to register.

Friday, March 20 @5:30pm Dinner and Oscar-nominated Film. Dine at Pierce Creek (menu here) then enjoy an acclaimed movie (TBA) around the corner at AMC Crève Coeur. Please RSVP here so we know how many tickets to purchase. (Carmen will purchase tix and you can Venmo her or give her cash.)

Sunday, April 19 @12pm Lunch and Spring Stroll. Bring your lunch to church and we'll eat together after worship and adult education (ECO Stewards are planning something to celebrate Earth Day), then carpool to the Missouri Botanical Garden to enjoy the spring flowers! Feel free to meet us there if that is better for you. We will pay our admission at the door since some people have memberships. Sign here so Carmen knows how many are attending.

Sunday, May 17 @6pm Community Choir Concert. Enjoy one another's company and a great concert with our own Michelle Brueggemann at the renovated Powell Hall! Ticket prices TBA -- link to purchase will be shared as soon as available. Sign up here so Carmen knows how many are attending.

Questions? Contact Carmen Bumgarner - cfbum@charter.net

Rooted in Faith and Justice: Christian Calls to Conscience & Cries for Peace in Palestine
Thursdays, starting February 5 | 6pm | Zoom

In the December, the Church Council adopted a motion to the affirmation of certain principles from the General Synod 35 Resolution "Declaration for an End to Genocide in Palestine." We affirm that all are made in God's image and are deserving of life free from oppression, persecution, and violence. We reject any theology or ideology including Christian Zionism, Supercessionism, antisemitism, anti-Arab, anti-Palestinian, or anti-Islam bias that would privilege or exclude any one nation, race, culture or religion within God's universal economy of grace.

Parkway United Church of Christ is encouraged to receive this Resolution as a prophetic call and commit to: Stand in solidarity with oppressed people, domestic and abroad, and to denounce any atrocities whether that be through the context of public witness, legislative advocacy, legal action, or non-violent direct action; and denounce hate and violence in all its forms including that rooted in Islamophobia, anti-Palestinian and anti-Arab bias, and antisemitism, as contrary to the teachings of Jesus 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 over Zoom. The book offers a powerful and enlightening perspective through the eyes of Palestinian Christian leaders and thinkers, helping us to understand the complexities and injustices of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Each week, we'll cover a different section, starting with section 1. Click here to get your copy! Let Gabriel Requadt know you'll be attending by emailing him at gabriel@parkwayucc.org

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Other PUCC News

January 2026 Alzheimer's News The Brain – Belly Connection
New research shows that having too much body fat might play a direct role in the onset of Alzheimer's disease. Scientists from Houston Medical collected subcutaneous and visceral belly fat from both obese and lean people getting elective abdominal surgery. The researchers focused on extracellular vesicles (EVs) – tiny particles released by fat tissue that carry fats and other molecules around the body. The Takeaway: These EVs can cross the blood-brain barrier and signal the brain to form amyloid B plaques a distinctive, harmful feature of Alzheimer's. The EVs collected from the participants with obesity sent out a different mix of fats from the ones in the non-obese participants. These different fats in the obese participants appeared to speed up plaque formation. More research is needed, but future studies may focus on how drugs or other treatments can disrupt these EV signals to lower Alzheimer's risk in obese people. For more details on current and future Alzheimer's research, visit alz.org/Research.

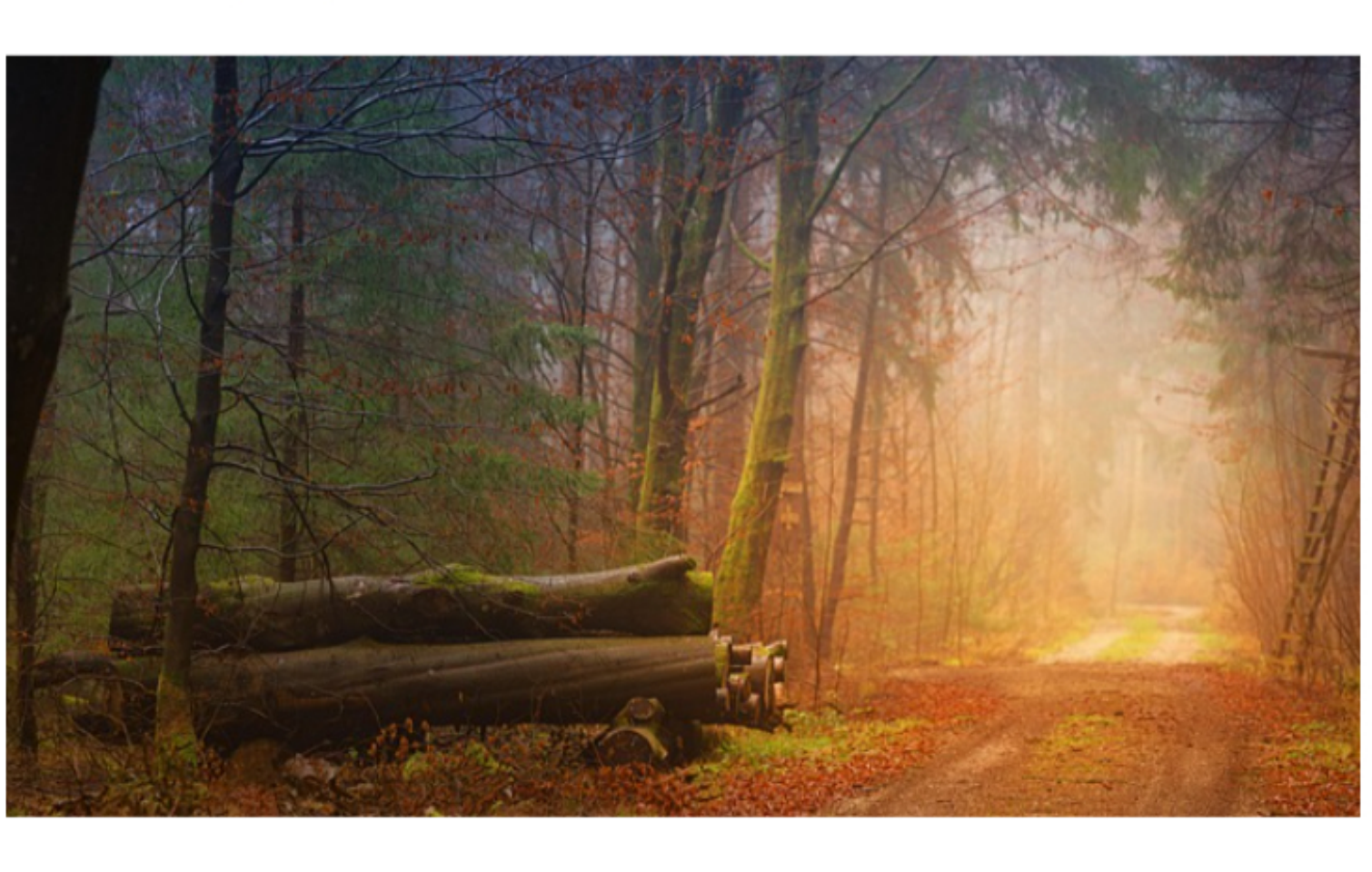
You can learn more by going to www.alz.org/helpsupport/resources or the Alzheimer's Helpline which is accessible 24/7 via 800-272-3900 and staffed by master's level clinicians to assist with crisis situations, decision making, and disease information. Tools and support are also available in Spanish. 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

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



Opportunities for Good Samaritans
North St. Louis Tornado Relief: Our church supports tornado relief efforts by collecting nonperishable food items and baby and personal hygiene supplies for families affected by the St. Louis tornado. Items may be placed in marked containers in the Gathering Space.

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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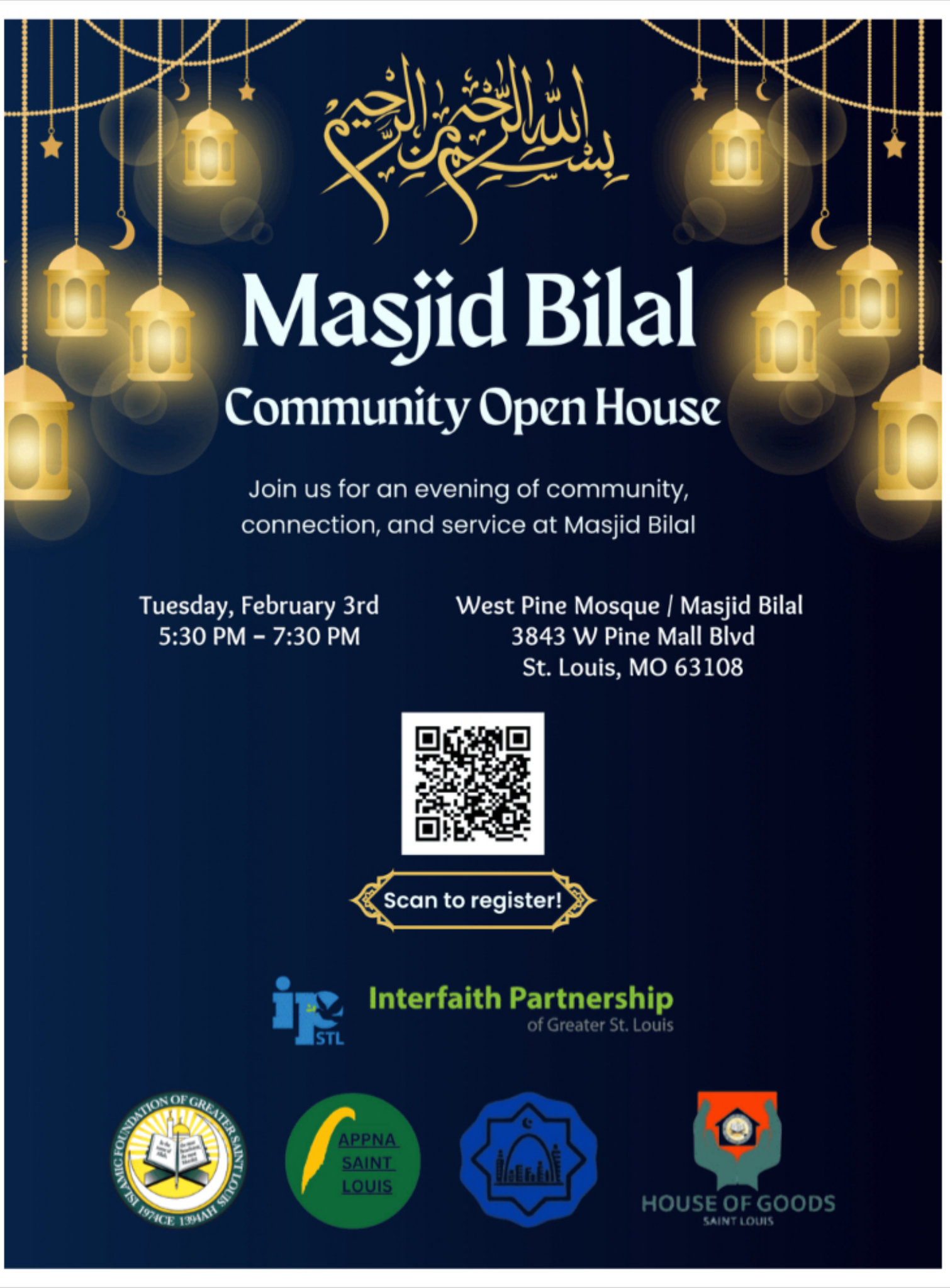
PUCC Marketplace

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 gabriel@parkwayucc.org

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 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

Community Happenings


بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَٰنِ الرَّحِيمِ
Masjid Bilal
Community Open House
Join us for an evening of community, connection, and service at Masjid Bilal
Tuesday, February 3rd
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
West Pine Mosque / Masjid Bilal
3843 W Pine Mall Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63108
Scan to register!
Interfaith Partnership
of Greater St. Louis
APPNA SAINT LOUIS
HOUSE OF GOODS
SAINT LOUIS

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.

Come Support PUCCer Youth Zoe in *Swix*
Friday, January 23 | 6:30-8pm
Kirkwood High School

Come show your support for PUCCer's very own Zoe as she stars in the student-led production of *Swix*. They'll be carpooling from the church at 6pm, but you're welcome to meet at the school. Ice Cream at Andy's afterwards!
Liz Lyons is leading this, so please RSVP with her at lizardstifel@gmail.com to let her know you're coming! You can also click here!

PUCCer youth Avery also has a production as well you are invited to attend! *Night of One Acts*. St. Charles West High School; 7pm on Jan 23/24. 2pm on Jan 25

CEnews Link
You can find the **January 8** Christian Education newsletter here! If you'd like to be included in the CEnews mailing list, please just contact gabriel@parkwayucc.org

Taking the Story Home
Want to take the story home to go deeper with the lesson or your family missed last Sunday? Click here! We'll also have ample photos from events that the children & youth do through the year.

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 Work after the Breaking by Cameron Trimble, UCC pastor

There is a rabbinic parable told in many forms.
In the beginning, the Holy One created vessels strong enough to hold divine light. But the light was too intense. The vessels shattered, and sparks of holiness scattered throughout the world, embedded in dust, hidden in brokenness, lodged in places no one would choose to look. According to the story, the world we inhabit now exists *after* the breaking. Creation did not fail. It fractured. The task given to humanity is not to pretend the vessels never broke, but to gather the scattered sparks and repair what can be repaired.
This work has a name in Jewish tradition: *tikkun olam*—the repair of the world.
The parable does not promise a world without rupture. It assumes rupture. It does not imagine innocence as the goal. It imagines responsibility. Moral courage, in this story, is not heroism. It is the willingness to enter the aftermath of damage and refuse despair.
We are living in a time after breaking. This parable helps us understand what comes next.
Repair does not mean restoring the world to how it was before the breaking. That world no longer exists. Repair means attending to what remains. It means gathering what has been scattered—dignity, trust, law, moral courage—and refusing to let them disappear into the dust.
This work is slow. It is often unglamorous. It requires patience rather than purity, persistence rather than spectacle. In Buddhist teaching, this kind of courage is sometimes called *right effort*, the steady commitment to reduce harm and cultivate wisdom, even when the path is long and uncertain.
Across traditions, the wisdom converges: repair begins with presence rather than perfection.
Moral courage does not require certainty about outcomes. It requires fidelity to the work at hand. It asks us to tell the truth even when it implicates us. It asks us to resist the temptation to retreat into cynicism or rage. It asks us to stay in relationship—with one another, with the fragile structures that still hold, and with the future we are shaping whether we intend to or not.
The parable ends without closure. It does not tell us when the world will be whole again. It only tells us that sparks remain, waiting to be gathered.
Repair is not the work of a single generation, or a single faith, or a single nation. It is the shared labor of people who refuse to abandon the world after it breaks.
That refusal—that choice to stay, to gather, to mend—is what moral courage looks like now.

Video

After worship last Sunday on *Epiphany* (AKA *Three Kings Day*), a couple of you were remembering James Taylor's 'Home by Another Way', which, amazingly, I had never heard of before…. and I am a big JT person!

Here is the song playing over a dramatic expression of the wise ones and their journey. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v7BBFXps6sg

Here are some of the very pertinent lyrics to mediate on as we deal with the Herods of today (full set of lyrics https://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/jamestaylor/homebyanotherway.html)

Those magic men, the Magi
Some people call them wise
Or oriental, even kings
Well anyway, those guys
They visited with Jesus
They sure enjoyed their stay

Jokes

Why did the mathematician celebrate 4/20 on January 5?
Because he knows how to reduce fractions.

Do you know there's a place where January comes after February?
It's the dictionary.

Why are computer programmers always grumpy on January 1st?
They turn on their monitor and the screen has the same number of pixels even though they keep hearing about the New Year's Resolution.

Why should Christmas be moved to January?
The stores are less crowded and everything is on sale.

Does anyone recall the guy in the superhero outfit at the Capitol on January 6th?
He was on the far right.

Then warned in a dream of King Herod's scheme
They went home by another way
Steer clear of royal welcomes
Avoid a big to-do
A king who would slaughter the innocents
Will not cut a deal for you
He really, really wants those presents
He'll comb your camel's fur
'Til his boys announce they've found trace amounts
Of your frankincense, gold, and myrrh

Questions of the Week

What will you stop doing this year to open space for new things?

When was the last time you tried something new?