PARKWAY
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
ALL ACCEPTED, NO EXCEPTIONS

LIMITLESS LOVE
COURAGEOUS ACTION
SPIRITED INQUIRY

Visit our Website

Facebook | Instagram

(If Table of Contents doesn't work, click **here** for a version that does.)

📬 eNews at a Glance

- 🗣 PUCC Announcements
- 📅 Recurring Events
- 🌄 News Around the Bend
- 🤝 Community Happenings
- 🧠 Ponder, Video, Jokes
- 📄 Taking Care of Business

Happening Before Sunday

Authentic Selves reception this Saturday! Plans are moving forward for the rescheduled opening of *Authentic Selves.* The roads around Parkway UCC are good, the parking lot is cleared. Temperature will be cold, but so far, no precipitation! Come see the beautiful portraits of trans siblings, read their courageous stories, hear our inspiring speaker Jordan Braxton, and enjoy warm drinks and treats! Your registration is appreciated or just show up with a smile!

Go AWOL--Adventurous Women Out Late
Saturday, January 31| 10am-12pm | 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!)

Feel free to bring a snack to share!

$10 donation requested for supplies when you sign up via One Church here. Questions? Contact Carmen cfbum@charter.net

Worship With Us this Sunday, February 1

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 a double sacrament Sunday since we are catching up from the storm last weekend!

Psalm 15 will remind us what it looks like when we live faithfully. Jesus shares his core values in the Beatitudes from **Matthew 5:1-12**. He lets us know about power and humility and what it means to be blessed and to bless others.

We will celebrate the sacrament of baptism with Payton Josephine Nienhaus, daughter of Becca Palmgren (our former Nursery care provider) and Justin Nienhaus.

We will celebrate the sacrament of communion at our open table. All are invited to receive this simple sacred meal. If you are with us remotely, please consider having some bread/crackers and wine/grape juice handy.

Worship bulletin here!

Songs include: *You Are Welcome Here; Fairest Lord Jesus; Spirit of the Living God; Jesus Loves Me; I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry; Here are Our Hearts; Come, Share the Lord; Help Us Accept Each Other*

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 who need some help. Not sure what to purchase? How about choosing from Isaiah 58's suggestions for February: oatmeal; canned fruit; seasonings/spices; bar soap; deodorant... or from Circle of Concern's current needs: dinner helpers; pasta sauce; condiments; lotion; size 6 diapers; women's incontinence briefs size lL or XL; tampons. Thank you!

First Sunday Choir! Please come at 9am to learn a song we will sing during the worship service. All ages welcome! Questions? Contact amy@parkwayucc.org February's song is *Wonderfully Made* (Naau i anga iaku) by Ruru Maeva.

Prayer Partner Before and After Worship this Sunday
PUCCer Lynn Mark is available this Sunday in the front left corner of the sanctuary before and after worship this Sunday to pray confidentially with individuals. She is a trained prayer chaplain. She will call on the presence of God and help create a safe spiritual space. Lynn will listen to you as you tell her a bit about your prayer request. She will offer an affirmative prayer out loud, reminding you of your inner strengths rather than ask God for a specific outcome. She 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.

Prayer List Updates as of January 30

The Baptism of **Payton Josephine Nienhaus** this Sunday, daughter of Justin Nienhaus and Becca Palmgren (former PUCC Nursery Attendant).
Clara Zander and family as she heals after eye surgery on January 30.
Carol and Harold Cobb - as she recuperates from hip surgery.
Lewis Burcham - 103 yr old healing after hospitalization (Stan's dad)
Diane Doty - cancer diagnosis; care plan being created (Grant's mom).
Marianne - courage, strength, wisdom as she faces challenges and gets through them (Marilyn McDougall's sister)
Debbie and Dale Borgmann - as she recuperates from multiple bone breaks resulting in surgeries, rods and pins. (Keith's cousin and wife)
Jaden - born premature on 12/8; healing from lung surgery (Diane Brost's grandson).
Roger - lung failure (nephew/cousin of the Pleis-Eiffert family).
Kate - health challenges including shingles (Borgmann niece).
The grief and groaning of Minneapolis and the nation over the deaths of Renee Nicole Good and Alex Pretti.
Ongoing chaos/grief in the Middle East - including Iran.
The continuing war with Ukraine and Russia.
The people and leaders of Venezuela.
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.

Return to Top

PUCC Announcements

Speak Out: A Banner Party Create signs for future protests, vigils, etc.
Sunday, February 1 | 1:30-4pm | Fellowship Hall

This is a drop-in event; come with ideas, materials (if possible*), and as many hands as possible; we will spread out on the tables and create signs and banners to be used at public gatherings.
•Children and friends are welcome.
•Participants take their signs and banners with them for future events.
•One or two fabric banners will be left at PUCC for use by anyone who wants to borrow them.

Seeking donations (or loan) of materials: ideas for slogans/messages, cardboard (corrugated and/or poster), markers, large-letter stencils, rulers, pencils, acrylic paint, inexpensive brushes, newspapers (to protect tables), sharp scissors, box cutters, masking/painter tape (for almost-instant lettering!), duct tape, packing tape, sturdy cardboard rolls or wooden pickets, one staple gun and staples... No fabric donations needed- I have plenty! Also snacks and drinks!

However, SEEKING iron-on adhesive cloth (NOT interfacing; must adhere on both sides), and loan of fabric scissors and 1-2 irons/ ironing boards.

If you want to put a (muted color) tattered family quilt or bedspread to a new use, though, it would make an awesome banner... or two, if cut in half. DONATIONS RECEIVED between Jan 25 and the February 1. Please contact Karla Beck with questions or to donate at Madamebeck@yahoo.com

Calling all Adventurous Men Out Early!

Mark your calendars for **Thursday, February 5**. We go by "AMOE" for short - partly because it's easier to remember. We occupy the Heritage Room at 9:15am on the first Thursday of every month. No agendas, no heavy lifting, just friendship and tasty pastries, and if it's your custom, dunked in hot coffee. Besides, what else do you have to do? All are welcome. Questions? Richard Scherrer at 90fivetpr@gmail.com

The Souper Bowl of Caring
Sunday, February 8 | 10am-12pm | Gathering Space

February 8 is going to be our annual *Souper Bowl of Caring*, something we do on Super Bowl Sunday. We'll need the teens to set up two large soup pots in the Gathering Space and we ask people to toss in change or bills to vote for their preferred team. **We need someone to lead it, so if you'd like to lend a hand, please reach out to Gabriel Requadt** gabriel@parkwaucc.org. The money is given to ministries in the community that work to alleviate hunger.

Experience Ramadan at our annual Intertwine Interfaith Iftar!
Saturday, February 21 from 5:15-7:30pm at Parkway UCC

Share a delicious meal prepared by our friends from TASOM and learn about fasting and other Ramadan traditions. This is a meaningful opportunity to celebrate varying perspectives as well as the similarities that unite Muslims, Jews, and Christians.

Questions? Please reach out to Lisa Mason lmason624@sbcglobal.net or Paige Penico andipaige@hotmail.com

Register here:
https://pucc.onechurchsoftware.com/public/events/17555

Reproductive Healthcare Discussion Groups Small Group Discussions for men & women in the Heritage Room
Tuesday, February 24 from 7-8:30pm | Saturday, March 21 from 3-4:30pm | Saturday, February 28 from 2-3:30pm

Parkway UCC is offering several presentations and discussion groups centered around reproductive healthcare for women and their families. These small group discussions will facilitate sharing experiences of reproductive healthcare. By sharing our views and experiences, we reduce stigma, develop awareness, and build solidarity. Click here and reserve early as space is limited for some sessions. By respectfully listening to and sharing experiences about reproductive healthcare in a supportive environment you can learn how to support the rights of women, their families and physicians to make reproductive healthcare decisions. Speaker: Ruth A Huebner, PhD in Psychology, former Child Welfare Research Consultant for the US Children's Bureau. For more info, contact Karen Mariani 827mariani@gmail.com

Amendment 3: Know the Truth. Protect Abortion!
Monday, February 9 | 7pm | B'nai Amoona, 324 S. Mason Rd., St. Louis, MO

Join Congregation B'nai Amoona and the NCJWSTL Path Coalition to hear our very own Dana Sandweiss speak about the new Amendment 3 and what you need to know to protect abortion rights. Sign up by February 5 by emailing jkbernstein314@gmail.com

Standing with Women's Reproductive Rights

Parkway UCC has a proud history of standing with people who have been negatively affected by the prevailing sentiment and/or political climate. In late 2025, the Church Council voted to support the General Synod resolution: "Denouncing the Dobbs Decision and Proclaiming Abortion as Healthcare." We are planning several small group events in February and March. There will also be an after-church presentation on **March 1**. If you want to be a part of planning the community events, please contact Nancy Litzinger or Karen Mariani at nancywlitzinger@gmail.com or ksmariani59@gmail.com

Faith Perspectives An Interfaith Conversation about Reproductive Justice
Sat, Feb 14 | 9am | Shaare Emeth, 11645 Ladue Rd., St. Louis, MO

Join members of the Access MO Clergy Advisory Board for an interfaith panel discussion about reproductive rights and beliefs from different faiths. The panel will include Rev. Kevin Cameron, Rabbi Andrea Goldstein, and Rev. Deborah Krause, and will be moderated by Access MO President & Co-Founder Dana Sandweiss. Please park in the north parking lot and enter through the North Lobby. Coffee, tea, and light breakfast snacks will be served at 9am. Conversation begins at 9:30am. Click here to register.

St. Pat's Dinner Come Support Habitat for Humanity
Saturday, February 28 | 4-7pm | Samuel UCC

Please bring family and friends! Call the church office for tickets 314-7279540, or purchase at the door. If you can't make it, please consider sending a contribution! Tickets are $20. Kids 6-10: $6. Special thanks to the Kern Meat Company and others. Every cent goes to Habitat for Humanity!

They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season.
Psalm 1:3a
Rooted in Love
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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.*

Reminder about Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)
As the year begins, many retirees will be required to take Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from their Individual Retirement Accounts 2026. You may give up to $111,000 in 2026 from your IRA to qualified charities, including Parkway, and these Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) have tax advantages. Your gift may satisfy all or part of your RMD, resulting in less taxable income. In addition to reducing taxes, making QCDs may in some situations lower Medicare premiums or even cause less taxation of Social Security.

To make a QCD, the donation must go directly from the custodian of your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to Parkway UCC, as the charitable recipient. That is, you may not make a personal withdrawal from your IRA and then pass that on to Parkway; only contributions made directly from the IRA to Parkway qualify as QCDs. Generally, the procedure for making a QCD is to contact the administrator of your IRA and ask that a gift be made directly from the IRA to Parkway.

If you have check-writing features on your IRA, you can write a check on the IRA directly to Parkway. The funds must be removed from your account and deposited by the recipient by December 31. Parkway will provide you with a written receipt for your gift made through your IRA. You can consider establishing a continuing QCD over a series of years. For example, you might wish to create a QCD of $3000 in each of five years. This would result in a contribution of $15000 over the five years with the tax advantages described above.

If you wish to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution, we recommend that you consult with your tax or legal advisor to make sure you have followed the proper procedures, and that the QCD fits with your tax and estate planning objectives.

FUNDrive—Help Support Two Causes!
We encourage Parkway members and friends to join the Parkway Eco Stewards' FUNDrive, which is collecting clothing and household items. By participating, you will recover space, shoppers will find bargains, and the world will benefit from lower carbon emissions.

We accept the following materials: clothing, household textiles, small household goods, books, and media. Bags and boxes will be accepted until **March 7**, with funds going towards the Youth Group Mission Trips and EcoStewards Pollinator Garden. 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/]

Back to Top

Recurring PUCC Events

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 one more session on **February 3**. We'd love to have you!

In the spring of 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Lara's three

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, Feb 10.** This will be our second session on the book *Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books* by Kirsten Miller and we will be discussing Chapters 24 to end of book. This novel will make you laugh out loud but it also 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

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 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.

Rooted in Faith and Justice: Christian Calls to Conscience & Cries for Peace in Palestine
Thursday, Feb 5 | 6pm | Zoom ID: 852 4980 9914 Passcode: 886683

In the December 2025, 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
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

PARKWAY
SPEAKER
SERIES

Speaker Series Occasional opportunities after worship at 11:15am
"Growing Up in St. Louis over the Last Century," by Ron Elz, aka Johnny Rabbitt.
Sunday, February 15 | 11:15am | Heritage Room

History comes alive with this program by St. Louis radio legend, Ron Elz, also known as Johnny Rabbitt. Mr. Elz was the first to use the Johnny Rabbitt moniker and helped popularize the name during the 1960's at the radio station KXOK. After some time away from the Rabbitt persona, Mr. Elz resumed using the Johnny Rabbitt name in 1975 and since has hosted the classic oldies show Route 66 on KMOX. He also has continued his legacy by presenting programs that explore interesting and novel nostalgic times in the River City. What makes nostalgia so powerful? It's because of its bittersweet quality - a mix of happy recollections and a slight sadness for what is lost. Join us as Johnny/Ron takes us down memory lane with stories, legends and myths, fun photos, some trivia, and a few quips and jokes. Questions? Richard Scherrer at 90fivetpr@gmail.com

Prayer Partner: an opportunity to pray with someone
Wednesday, Feb 11 | 7-9am
Sanctuary

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:
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 to kevin@parkwayucc.org

Coffee and Conversation at Panera
Monday, February 23 | 10am
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:
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

AWOL
Adventurous Women Out Late

Go AWOL this Winter – Adventurous Women Out Late
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.

Look for other upcoming events:

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

Return to Top

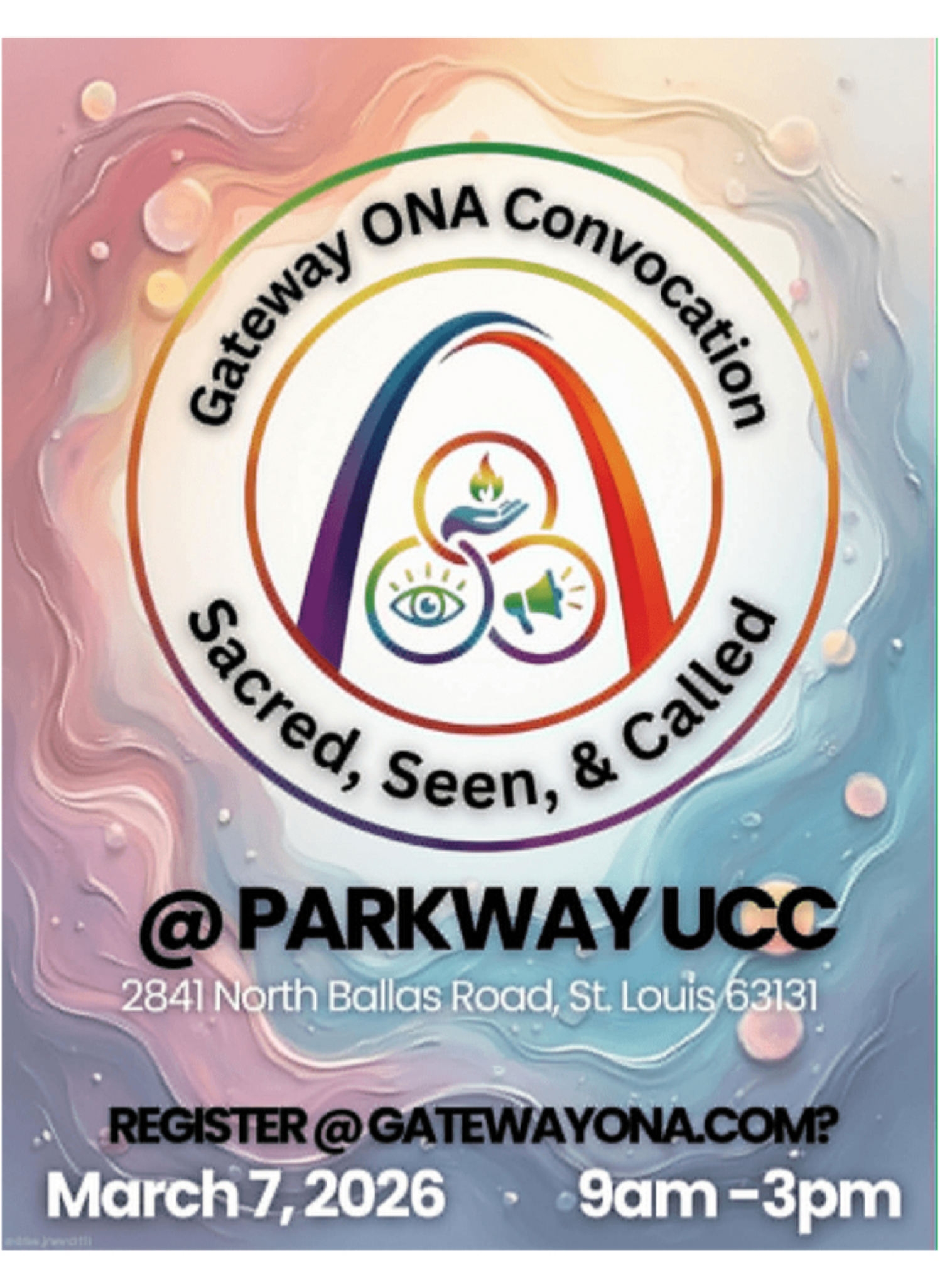
Other PUCC News

English Conversation Request
Some of you will remember Luke, a graduate student from Eden Seminary, who worshipped with us regularly when he was here from Sri Lanka in 2017-2018. See a quick profile of him here!

He reached out to us last week through Greg Schmelig (often his ride to and from church) to give us an update on his life and ministry... and to ask us for some help with conversational English with some of the students in his village.

Here is part of his letter:
My family and I are doing well. My ministry is also moving forward, and one key part of it is teaching English to adults in our village. Currently, I have a group of about 10 students. While we cover grammar and other essentials, many still find it challenging to speak confidently. Because of this, I’ve decided to place a special emphasis on conversational practice. Here in the village, many young people miss opportunities due to language barriers. Even when they know some English, they struggle to speak fluently. To help them, I’m hoping to find a volunteer who would be willing to join our class remotely for conversation sessions.

Our class meets twice a week for about an hour and a half each session. Ideally, the volunteer could join for the last half hour of each class to engage the students in guided conversation. I’ve scheduled the classes for Monday and Tuesday mornings from 7:00 to 8:30am (USA Central Time), so the conversational segment would be from approximately 8:00 to 8:30am. The volunteer could speak with students on various everyday topics to build their confidence. I’d also appreciate gentle correction when mistakes are made. Even though it’s a group setting, I plan to organize the time so each student gets a few minutes of one-on-one speaking practice. Thank you for considering this opportunity to support my students. Your help could make a meaningful difference in their lives and futures. God bless you. ~Luke
****
We are looking for three people that would be willing to give this a try. Please let kevin@parkwaucc.org know and he can give you Luke’s email address so you can reach out to him directly. Thank you for considering this.



Gateway ONA Convocation
Sacred, Seen, & Called
@PARKWAY UCC
2841 North Ballas Road, St. Louis 63131
REGISTER @GATEWAYONA.COM?
March 7, 2026 9am-3pm

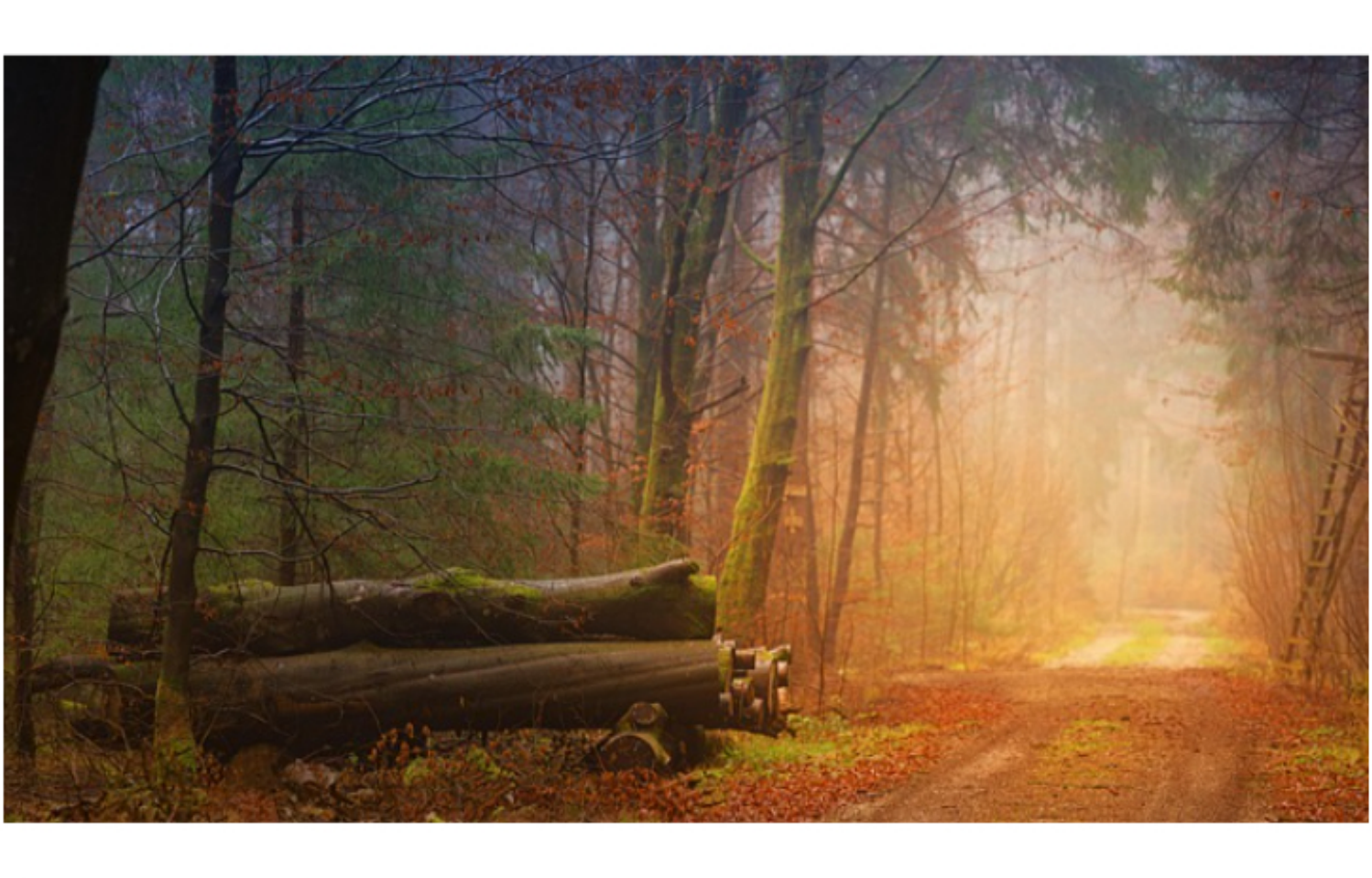
SAVE THE DATE!
Keynote Speaker: Rev. Derek Terry, Acting Executive Directory of the Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ
Cost: $25.00 Doors open and light breakfast available at 8:00am
Worship begins at 9:00am
We are once again collecting canned goods to donate to Doorways. The registration link and initial workshop information will be emailed soon.

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.

Return to Top

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!

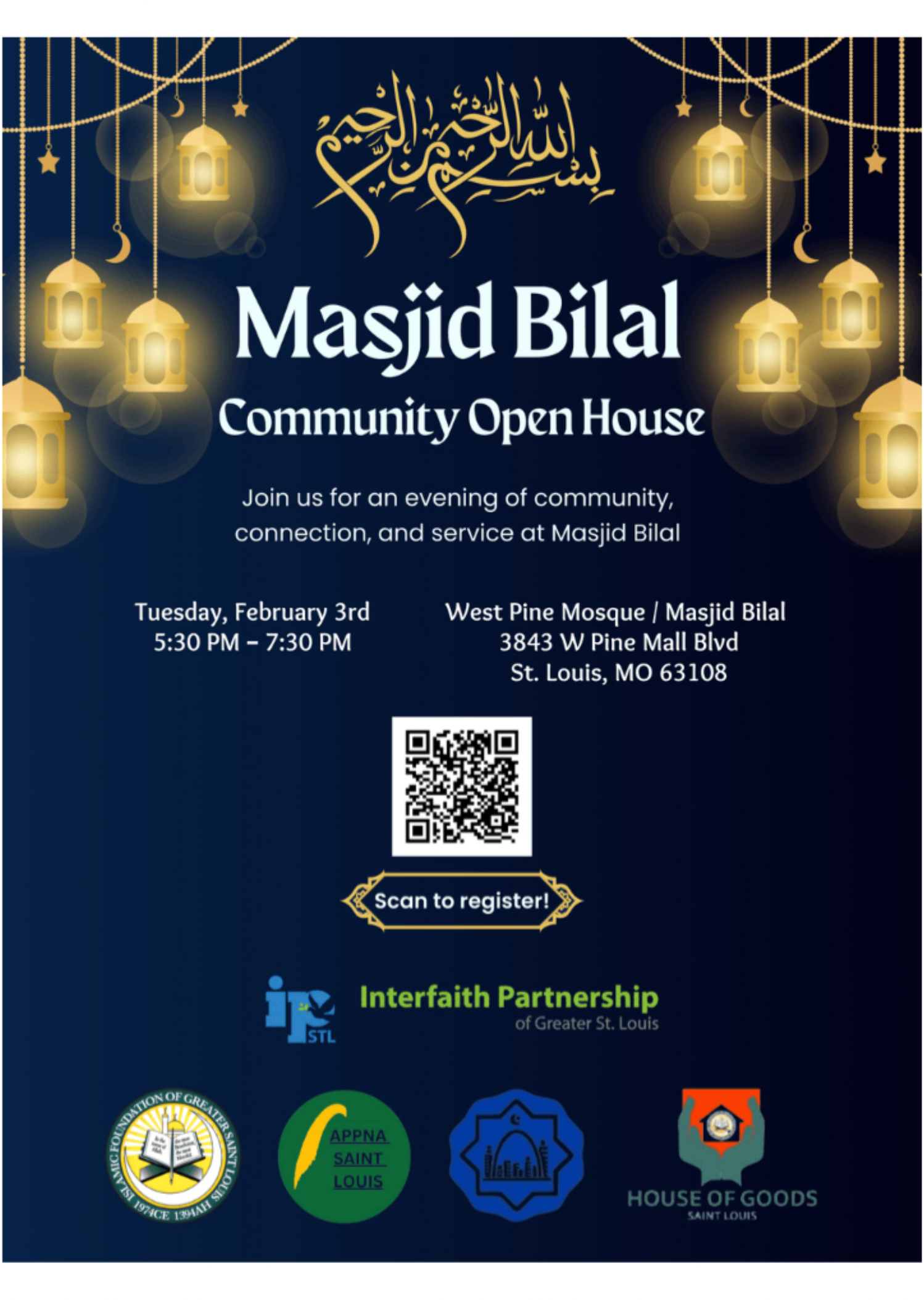
For any questions, contact Gabriel gabriel@parkwayucc.org

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

28 Days of Black History
Hello and welcome to 28 Days of Black History! Starting on February 1, 2026, you can receive one email each evening for the month. Contact Nicole at hello@28daysofblackhistory.com if you would like to recieve these. This year’s theme is 100 Years of Commemoration, honoring that Black History Month got its start a century ago. So, let’s explore what other forms of commemorations for Black culture have endured the time. From land and statues to holidays and rituals, you'll explore how Black culture has been preserved and honored.

Commemorations, no matter how significant or mainstream they may be, are such a important practice of remembering. What commemorations mean something to you? How can you use commemorations to bring more presence and celebration into your life? Each newsletter will offer prompts for you to reflect and remember your own history, too! Remember, this is a free newsletter made possible by readers like you. Share this series with a friend, encourage your workplace to join in, and feel free to leave a donation to say thanks! Here’s to another year of protecting, preserving, and amplifying Black history!



بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
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

IPSTL
ISLAMIC FOUNDATION OF GREATER SAINT LOUIS
APPNA SAINT LOUIS
HOUSE OF GOODS SAINT LOUIS

Family Iftar Dinners be a guest of a Muslin family to experience a fast-breaking together

As the Holy Month of Ramadan approaches, the Turkish American Society of Missouri (TASOM) warmly invites you to participate in a Home-Based Family Iftar Dinner with a local Muslim host family.

Please RSVP here by **February 1**. After matching you with a host family, they’ll share details about your host’s address, contact information, and background. This event is free of charge and open to everyone, regardless of faith. Join TASOM for an evening of delightful food, meaningful conversation, and new friendships. They look forward to connecting you with a welcoming family in your community!

SAVE THE DATE: Isaiah 58 Groundbreaking Celebration
With grateful hearts, Isaiah 58 Ministries are excited to share an important milestone in the life of Isaiah 58 and Saint Louis. They have officially purchased a new building located at 4164 Chippewa Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63116, to enable them to expand services and

community outreach. For some time, they have recognized the growing need for additional space as the number of individuals and families in need of food assistance and basic necessities continues to rise at an alarming rate. At the same time, they have seen a shift where many of their guests now live.

So, you are invited to join Isaiah 58 for a Groundbreaking Celebration and the beginning of new possibilities for St. Louis communities.

Save the Date: When: Tuesday, February 24 at 10am. Where: At their new location, 4164 Chippewa Street

More details will be shared soon! They are deeply thankful for the prayers, encouragement, generosity, and partnership that have brought them to this moment. Isaiah 58 Ministries' new community center represents more than bricks and mortar; it is a commitment to being present where the need is greatest and growing alongside the community they serve.