



# Parkway Courier



Volume 54, No. 2

February 2019

## Ordinary Time Isn't Ordinary by Pastor Kathy Itzin

“Ordinary time” is the church time when ‘nothing special is going on.’ The holidays are over and everything is ‘back to normal.’ But what is ‘normal?’

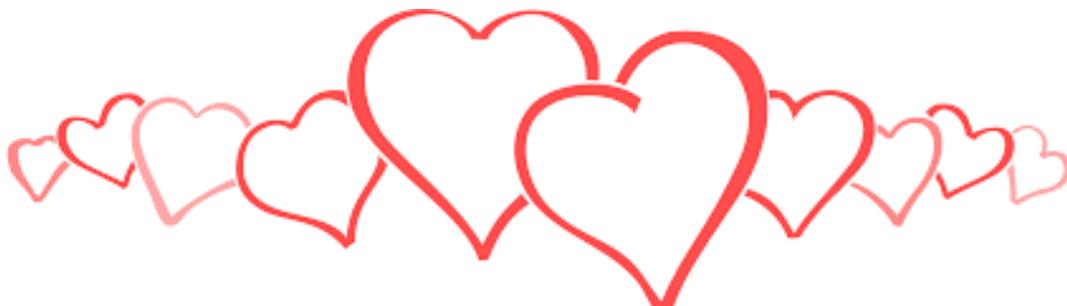
God’s actions are uncovered at every moment in our lives. Many people believe that God doesn’t necessarily have a plan for how everything will work out. Things aren’t decided ahead of time. The cycles of life circle around, we make choices and within all of that, God is always nudging us to choose well. Our choices determine ‘more life’ or ‘less life’ for us, and for the earth and whomever our choices affect. Then, God reveals the next possibilities resulting from those choices.

There is a line in the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) that I love. “Today, I set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life, so that you and your descendants may live...” (Deuteronomy 30: 19) This can be taken both as symbolic of life’s fullness and literally. We know that millions of species of insects, plants, and animals do depend upon our making choices that ensure life for them. Our decisions and our policies as a nation affect all of our brothers and sisters around the planet. Our choices around energy, ‘going green,’ lifestyles and even the food we eat influence the rate at which global warming increases or decreases.

We know that our choices help determine “fullness of life” for ourselves and others. We can decide to take good care of ourselves mentally, spiritually, emotionally, and physically. Do we rest, play, and work in ways that contribute to a sense of goodness and satisfaction for us and our relationships? The choices we make always have the power to result in more or less fullness of life for ourselves and others.

We could picture every moment as alive with expectation, waiting for what we choose. God’s spirit is in all these options, guiding us to the next best thing. Each choice opens up new possibilities for less life or more life and that is one of the major ways that God works through the world.

Of course, that’s not the only way. God’s Spirit of life is alive in creation, growing, evolving, recycling, and creating life in all its forms. Our daily lives and our choices impact and contribute to helping the world experience more life all the time. Keep choosing well! God’s Spirit creates life through you!



# February Scriptures

## February 3 (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany)

**Jeremiah 1: 4-10** (Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you).

**Luke 6: 17-26** (Blessed are the poor...blessed are you who hunger...blessed are they who weep now...)

## February 10 (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany) (Kathy on vacation, Dianne Star preaching)

**1 Corinthians 15: 1-10a** Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you..)

**Luke 5: 1-11** (Jesus helps the fishermen get a great catch, and Simon, James, and John leave their boats and everything in order to follow him).

## February 17 Men's Service at Robbinsdale - Worship at Robbinsdale

**1 Corinthians 15: 12-20** (How can you think there is no resurrection from the dead if Christ himself was resurrected from the dead)?

**Matthew 11: 28-30** (My yoke is easy, and my burden is light). (This is what the Men's Group chose as the theme.)

## February 24 (7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany)

**Psalms 37: 1-11, 39-40** (Do not fret because of the wicked...they will soon fade like the grass...trust in the Lord, and do good; and you will live in the land, and enjoy security).

**Luke 6: 27-38** (Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you...do not judge, and you will not be judged...give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over...).

## Courier and Mustard Seed E-mail Exchange

Our friends at Robbinsdale UCC have asked about exchanging church newsletters, and we think that's a great idea! They have a lot going on, and this will be a great opportunity for us each to see what's happening in our sister congregation. We expect to trade congregational email addresses so that we can all receive both the Courier and Mustard Seed beginning in the month of March. If you do NOT want your email address given to Robbinsdale UCC for the purpose of exchanging church information, please inform the church office (612) 522-2982 by the end of February!

### **February Coffee Hour: Board of Finance**

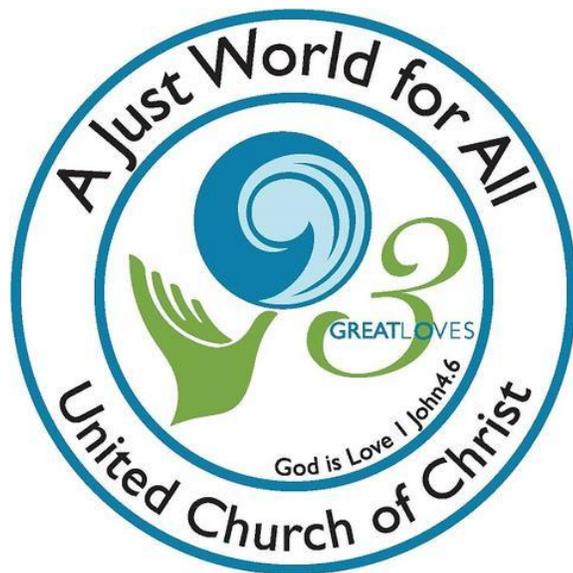
<b>February Drivers</b>	<b>Flowers</b>
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3 Dave Hendel	3 Open
10 Char Merz	10 Open
17 Dave Hendel	17 Open
24 Char Merz	24 Open

**E-mail address: [parkwayucc@gmail.com](mailto:parkwayucc@gmail.com)**

**Rev. Kathy's e-mail: [parkwayuccpastor@gmail.com](mailto:parkwayuccpastor@gmail.com)**

**Web Site: [www.parkwayucc.com](http://www.parkwayucc.com)**



## 3 Great Loves – a Just World for All

by Dianne Star

The 3 Great Loves campaign of the UCC is an opportunity for all of us to express our Love of Neighbor, Love of Children, and Love of Creation by working together to address the inequities in our world. This is a 2-year initiative, and the UCC is providing resources for and seeking stories of how we are living out God's love in our world. Stories can be shared at [www.ucc.org/3greatloves](http://www.ucc.org/3greatloves), or on Facebook, or on Instagram and Twitter using #3greatloves in the post.

For 2019, the UCC printed a desktop calendar called "Just Act," a daily action calendar for creating a just world for all. Every Sunday the actions for the coming week will be on the bulletin board by the Love of Neighbor poster. Use these actions as a resource for your ideas and actions about making a Just World for All.

Here are some highlights from the February calendar:

- Reflect on the ethnic heritage of your family; what strengths and limitations have you inherited? How does your heritage shape you?
- Advocate for safety of those that are homeless in your community.
- Write notes to family and friends, celebrating God's love, and yours.
- Write a letter to the editor of your local media outlet on a justice topic important to you.
- Take a risk for the sake of justice: show up, step up, speak up!
- Take deep, prayer-filled breaths: Fill your heart and your words with wisdom.
- Start a social media practice of responding thoughtfully and prayerfully to highly charged, political invective.

Just Act!

### Parkway Courier

Charlene Merz, Editor

The deadline for the March Courier is February 20.

Please bring your articles to the church office or email them to [Parkwayucc@gmail.com](mailto:Parkwayucc@gmail.com)

All articles are appreciated!

# News of the Boards

**Board of Community Outreach** – This board did not meet in January.

**Board of Diaconate** – The board met on January 13.

Bernard Walters will be the Head Deacon for February. Carol will call and check in with Jeff Zhang to see how he is doing. We all miss him!

We will have Linger Lunch on January 27. The board will ask Community Outreach if they will host February and Council if they will host March.

Dianne Star is preaching on February 10 while Kathy is on vacation and she will ask for volunteers to help with parts of the worship service.

**Board of Finance** – Did not meet in January.

**Council** met on January 17.

Outreach: Is giving \$780.18 to the youth group. Before Christmas they did a reverse Advent calendar with proceeds going to St. Stephen's Shelter, Ascension Place for Women and Children and another place yet to be determined. They may discuss giving away some of the food in the foodshelf to the HUB in February, especially if the government shutdown continues.

Finance: Char will have the budget updated, including endowment amounts by the time of the Congregational Meeting Jan. 20th.

Dianne Star motioned, and David Hendel seconded to approve this budget and present it to congregation on Sunday. Approved.

Minister's Report:

-- T. Michael and I hope to have the Courier and RUCC Mustard Seed ready to email both churches in March. We will place a notice to this effect in the February Courier indicating that if anyone does NOT want their email given to RUCC they can tell us before March 1 and we will not send it.

-- Hmong Church (Spirit in Truth) has given us notice that they will not be worshipping here this year. They have worshipped on Tuesdays, and have paid us \$75/month. They appreciated us and we had a lovely relationship, but they had hoped to grow beyond six people and didn't. They are moving worship to their homes.

-- T. Michael will be on sabbatical from April 22 – July 8<sup>th</sup> and has asked Kathy to cover pastoral care visits and any funerals. She said yes, but would like Council approval, as this would also mean less time for our visits. David G. suggested she find out approximate number of hours spent visiting, but general approval was given (without vote).

**“Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage.” – Lao Tzu.**

**“The best love is the kind that awakens the soul; that makes us reach for more; that plants the fire in our hearts and brings peace to our minds.” – The Notebook**

**"And remember, as it was written, to love another person is to see the face of God." — Les Miserables**



## Shared Services & Events with Robbinsdale

Tuesday, February 12: Out to Lunch Bunch at RUCC for dessert 'Pilgrim Guild' noon.

Sunday, February 17: Men's Sunday – Shared Service at RUCC.

Friday, February 22: RUCC/Parkway Trivia Night with 'New Church' name proposals at RUCC; 6:30 p.m. Potluck and appetizers.

Sunday, March 3: Mardi Gras Jazzy Bluegrass Communion service at RUCC followed by a potluck, name proposals and setting up Ad Hoc 'name committee.'

Tuesday, March 5: Tuesday Mardi Gras Pancakes at Parkway at 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 6: Ash Wednesday Service at RUCC at 6:00 p.m. with soup and appetizers. 7:00 p.m. worship and ashes.

Sunday, March 31: April Fool's Talent and No Talent Show at RUCC. 5:00 p.m. dinner and fun.

Palm Sunday, April 14: RUCC and Parkway Congregational Meetings and Final Vote: Voting on: Timeline, Dissolution of churches, Pastors, and New Name.

Thursday, April 18: Maundy Thursday at RUCC (time to be announced)

Friday, April 19: Good Friday at RUCC (time to be announced)



2	Kaydin Berry	10	Victor Morrison
2	Kevin Combs	12	Carolyn Sprague
2	Danny Mwesigwa	13	Pam Hendel
5	Rick Lerum	17	Graham Merz
9	Kevin Korell	17	Troy Ouellette
		25	Chloe Berry

# HAPPY/THANKFUL OFFERINGS

**We are offering this gift because we are happy and/or thankful for:**

## **January 6, 2019**

To see Jodie and Victor  
in church.

-Bonnie and the choir

Blessed to be here after  
my recent surgery.

-Jodie Walters

Emily – prayers for your  
burn. Hope you get better  
soon.

-Dianne & Lester Boerger

## **January 13, 2019**

29 short, blissful and  
enlightening years of  
marriage with my David.  
-Emily

Food, water and house.  
-Cole

Our condolences and prayers are with the family of Lucille Senescall who entered eternal life on January 30. A memorial service was held on Saturday, February 2.

## **Please Remember in Your Prayers**

**Gerry Hartley**

**Rose Marie Lund** – (Durand's daughter)

**Kay Leerssen**

**Marlene Mars**

**Harriet Thompson**

**Parkway Church**

**Eunice Shore**

**Brett Sprague**

**Laura Mylan** - (Friend of Janet Zahn)

**Jan Schwarz**

**Sheryl Griefe** - (Friend of Dick and Nancy)

**Bob Freeman** - (Cancer surgery)

**Bob Dooley** - (Lu Senescall's son-in-law)

**Lisa Flynn** - (Carol Anderson's niece)

**Maxine Rogers** - (Lonnie Rose's sister)

**Veralyn and Dennis Bash** - (sister and brother-in-law of Lester Boerger)

**Paul and Donita Boerger** - (Lester Boerger's parents)

**Sandy Thompson** - (Bob and Evie Thompson's daughter-in-law)

**Emil Makinen** – (Jim Jarvimaki's brother-in-law)

**Chris Murphy** - (Nephew of Tom and Kathy Malaske)

**Judy Oelkers** - (Pat Durand's cousin)

**Frank Gaines**

**Sarah Billington** – (Alexandra's mother)

**A.J. Houle** - (Dick and Nancy Larson's son-in-law)

**Terry Nolan**

**Kathy Malaske**

**James Karst**

**Tom Ley**

**Greg Lipelt** - (Todd Lipelt's brother)

**Ron Merz** - (Greg Merz's father)

**Bill Morrison**

**Ken Gaines**

**Jim and Margaret Heglund**

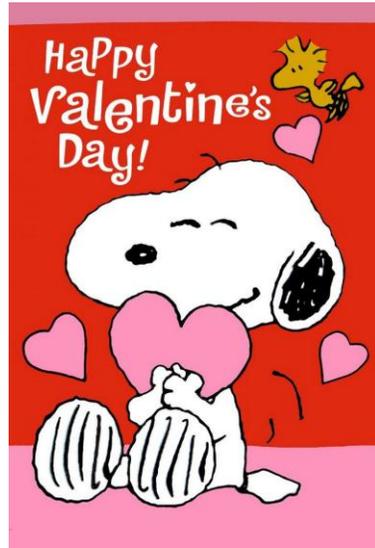
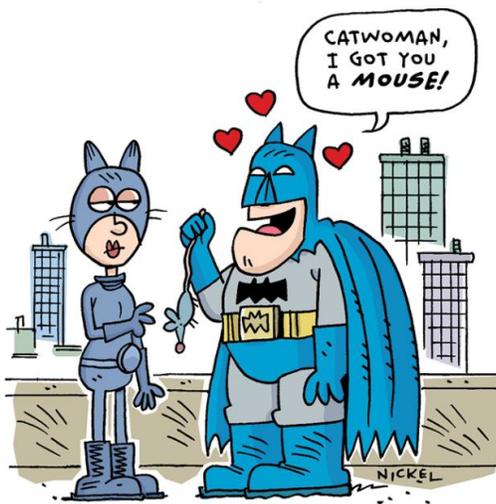
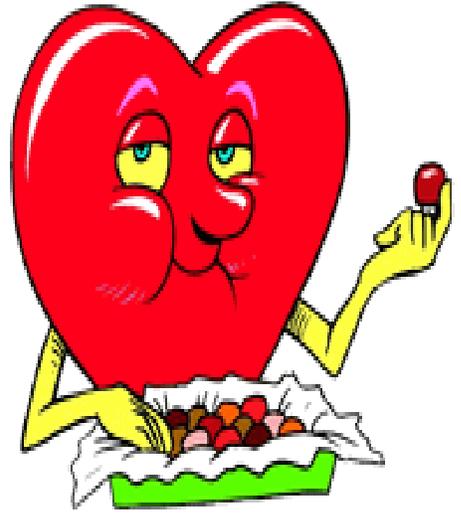
**Paula and her family**

**Stacy Bollich** – (Sharon Chafin's daughter)

**Love is a friendship that has caught fire. It is quiet understanding, mutual confidence, sharing and forgiving. It is loyalty through good and bad times. It settles for less than perfection and makes allowances for human weaknesses.**

**--Ann Landers**

# HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY



## Parkway Courier

### ***An Open and Affirming Church***

3120 Washburn Avenue North

Minneapolis, MN 55411

Telephone: 612-522-2982

Fax Number: 612-522-1439

E-mail: [parkwayucc@gmail.com](mailto:parkwayucc@gmail.com)

Worship Service: Sunday, 10 a.m.

Office Hours: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Monday – Thursday

Rev. Kathy Itzin, Senior Minister

Charlene Merz, Administrative Assistant

Bonnie McClain, Director of Music

Daniel Ritter, Organist

Carolyn Hendel, Bell Choir Director

Molly Merz, Custodian

**Published by and for members and friends of  
PARKWAY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

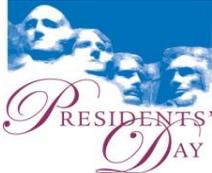




# Parkway United Church of Christ

## February 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 10 a.m. Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11 a.m. Coffee Hour 12:30 CWOW	4 7 p.m. Victory AA	5 10 a.m. Bible Study	6 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. Choir	7	8	9
10 10 a.m. Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11 a.m. Coffee Hour 12:30 CWOW	11 7 p.m. Victory AA	12 10 a.m. Bible Study Out to Lunch Bunch at RUCC at noon	13 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. Choir	14 	15	16
17 10 a.m. Worship at RUCC 12:30 CWOW	18  7 p.m. Victory AA	19 10 a.m. Bible Study	20 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. Choir <i>Courier Deadline</i>	21 Council 7 p.m.	22 Trivia Night at RUCC 6:30 p.m. Potluck and appetizers	23
24 10 a.m. Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11 a.m. Linger Lunch 12:30 CWOW	25 7 p.m. Victory AA	26 10 a.m. Bible Study	27 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. Choir	28		