



## **Christmas...And Afterwards** **by Pastor Kathy Itzin**

Christmas is the season when we celebrate love. We cherish our families and friendships. We let people know that we love and appreciate them. It is also a time when we dearly miss those who aren't with us anymore.

Christmas and New Years can be the times of our greatest joys, happiest memories, and saddest feelings all together. It is a life-mixture of nostalgia, tenderness, beauty, and grief. The grief can be for what was, and is no longer, and for unfulfilled hopes and dreams.

That wonder, joy, and grief together is exactly where God is present. The original Christmas included the birth of a newborn son, the absence of loving relatives, great love between a father and mother, fear, poverty, the miraculous promise of God fulfilled, and an uncertain future in Egypt, a foreign land. Jesus' family didn't speak the language, know anybody, or have a secure income. This was the first Christmas!

It's not news that God is in the love that we celebrate and share with one another. We also know that God is with us in the depths of uncertainty and sorrow. Is this the meaning of Christmas? The Grinch That Stole Christmas says:

"He puzzled and puzzled 'till his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before. Maybe Christmas, perhaps...means a little bit more."

The birth of Jesus is certainly one of God's greatest gifts to us. So is our own existence on earth, and the amazement of even being alive. At the same time, we share in the Light and Love that God spreads, and we have amazing power. Jesus' mother, Mary gave birth to 'Emmanuel,' 'God-With-Us,' 'God-in-the-World,' and we can do the same.

We can transform any situation and bring more love, more justice, more kindness, more tenderhearted strength and care for the vulnerable, into the world. We not only can, but we do! With the help of God's Spirit, we are making things better, and that makes us better. More light, and more love continue to enter the world.

During this time of short days, and early darkness, it is good to remember that we join God in adding light, hope and love to all of creation. Jesus was born, and God continues to be re-born, every day, through us!

# January Scriptures

## January 7 Epiphany

**Isaiah 60: 1-6** (Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you...)

**Matthew 2: 1-12** (Story of King Herod and the Wise Men)

## January 14 (2nd Sunday after Epiphany)

**1 Samuel 3: 1-20** (God calls the boy Samuel. Eli instructs him to answer, "Speak, for your servant is listening")

**Psalms 139: 1-6, 13-18** (O God, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away...)

## January 21 (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany)

**Psalms 62: 5-12** (God alone is my fortress and salvation, my mighty rock, my refuge. Trust in God at all times...pour out your heart to God...)

**Mark 1: 14-20** (After John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news...and he saw Simon and Andrew fishing, and said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him...)

## January 28 (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany)

**1 Corinthians 8: 1-13** (Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up...We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Take care that this liberty of yours does not become a stumbling block to the weak)

**Mark 1: 21-28** (Jesus taught in a synagogue in Capernaum, then immediately afterwards, healed a man with an unclean spirit)



## Out to Lunch Bunch

The Out to Lunch Bunch will gather at the 50's Grill, 5524 Brooklyn Blvd., in Brooklyn Center on January 11 at 11:30 a.m. If you haven't been there, they have a nice variety of lunch foods and great homemade soup, shakes and malts, and pies too! Please call the church and let us know you will be coming.

## Parkway Courier

Charlene Merz, Editor

The deadline for the February Courier is January 24.

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

All articles are appreciated!



***You are invited  
to  
A Baby Shower  
to Welcome***



***Jaylen Patrick Mulbah***

***Sunday, January 14,  
following the morning worship service***

***Parkway Social Hall***

Jaylen is the son of Cassie Lewis and John Mulbah and the grandson of Shawn Lewis. Great-grandparents at Parkway are Pat and Jerry Stone. He was born December 14, 2017, and weighed 8 pounds 11 ounces and is 21 ½ inches long. We joyfully welcome him into our Parkway family.

Please stay after the January 14 service to greet Jaylen and Cassie. Lunch will be served in the social hall, followed by the shower. Cassie has listed the things that she needs and the list is posted on the bulletin board by the social hall.

## **News of the Boards**

### **Board of Diaconate**

The board met on December 10. Blue Christmas, December 18—Carol suggested that Kathy send out invitations to those congregational members who lost a loved one in the last year or so. Kathy will do that. Dan will play, but the choir won't sing. Jenny volunteered to lead music. Lonnie, Dianne, and Carol volunteered to read. Dianne will bring cider. We will have cider and cookies afterwards in the Narthex.

Christmas Eve—We will need help getting candles, cider, and cookies together. Carol will check with Durands regarding cider.

The board will host a baby shower for Cassie Lewis on January 14. We will provide a luncheon. Lonnie and Mary Lou both volunteered to bring sloppy joes, and Carol and Kathy will bring veggie sloppy joes and pickles. Carol will get plates and napkins. Jenny will bring a dessert. Dianne will bring buns and chips. Mary Lou will write an article for the January Courier.

Linger Lunches—The board will host Linger Lunch on January 28th, and ask for other groups or volunteers to host February 25th and March 31st. For January, we will need three soups, bread, plates and napkins. Kathy will bring a veggie soup and homemade concord grape jam. Dianne will bring a soup with meat and Lonnie will also. Jenny will bring bread.

### **Board of Finance**

This board did not meet in December.

## **Board of Community Outreach**

The board met on December 17. The cost for the Thanksgiving Dinner at St. Anne's Place was \$325.00 which included paper plates, napkins, and table cloths.

The board distributed the Church in Community Funds to: \$200 to St. Anne's Place, \$300 to The Heifer Project, and \$300.12 to the Youth Programs at Parkway.

Toys for North Memorial Health Child Life Program: Jim and Ann Jarvimaki delivered the toys from the sharing tree to the Patient Representative Office at North Memorial and were greeted by Barbara. She was very grateful, and told them what a wonderful gift in Christ they were giving. Later they received a letter from Certified Child Life Specialist, Phylcia Petit, thanking them again for the wonderful gifts and how they will assist the pediatric patients and brighten their stay at the hospital.

The board will not meet in January. The next meeting is February 4 after the service.

## **Board of Property**

This board did not meet in December.

## **Council**

Council met on December 21st for the Special Outdoor Bonfire Winter Solstice Meeting.

Kathy mentioned that Janet Holm will be leaving the Planning Team. Lonnie Rose has asked to join the team. Dave Hendel motioned to approve Lonnie joining the Planning Team. The motion passed unanimously.

Char spoke about working with Emily on the new accounting programs. Merging with the old system has been difficult, and there have been problems getting things to work correctly. She will have the budget and finances done by the next Council meeting.

Char spoke about the Sisters' Camelot Mobile Food Share Program, which provides healthy food to local residents for free. Parkway will host another event for them on January 2, 2018.

Char is working with the community garden across the street to have a few Farmer's Markets in our parking lot next summer. The Northside Growers Market Organization would like to meet at Parkway. Char is making those arrangements.

Dave Hendel suggested that we compile a list of emergency contacts and medical information for our elderly members in case of an emergency at Parkway or elsewhere. We did this under Ron Meyer, but should update our information.

Kathy gave her minister's report. All is well on this solstice evening.





## Sisters' Camelot Mobile Food Share by Charlene Merz

Around the middle of December I received a call from Amy, from Sisters' Camelot Mobile Food Share organization. The host place they had scheduled for the next day cancelled and they were looking for an emergency place to distribute food and they wanted to know if they could come to Parkway. I said "Sure!". They came the next day and brought an abundance of free fresh and canned organic food and anyone could come and get some. I didn't know much about this program, but loved it immediately and had a nice conversation with Amy (one of the main volunteers) and I'd like to share what I learned with you.

Sisters' Camelot started in 1997. It collects organic overstocked food from different organizations in Minneapolis and some from Wisconsin. They distribute these items twice a week throughout the Minneapolis neighborhoods. During the summer months they serve plates of food from a bus they use from a grant from The Wedge Co-op. They like to park near city parks or areas of gathering. Their goal is to "build community" in these areas. They have no set schedule of where they will go, but decide day to day. During the winter months, they have a truck that takes food to a host place, which is set up a week before the distribution.

Sisters' Camelot's main belief is "Random Acts of Kindness", therefore anyone can come and receive food. No proof of income or paperwork has to be filled out. All they ask is that recipients only take what they can use.

Because there is a great need for food to feed the hungry, Sisters' Camelot moves around the Minneapolis neighborhoods so they can equally distribute the food they receive. They stay at a host place for a few months and then move on to another area.

Unlike many meal programs, Sisters' Camelot receives few donations from foundations or government. Its tiny \$130,000 annual budget comes from fundraisers and the footwork of dozens of canvassers who go door to door seeking donations. The only paid staff is the driver of the bus or truck. They are collectively managed by 6-8 people, but have 50 - 70 volunteers throughout the year. The average amount of food they distribute is 1.7 million pounds a year. They will be back to Parkway. Watch our Facebook page and help get the word out! Thanks everyone!



## Please Remember in Your Prayers

**Gerry Hartley**  
**Rose Marie Lund** – (Durand's daughter)  
**Jim Leerssen**  
**Marlene Mars**  
**Harriet Thompson**  
**Parkway Church**  
**Eunice Shore**  
**Brett Sprague**  
**Laura Mylan** - (Friend of Janet Zahn)  
**Jan Schwarz**  
**Karen Anderson**  
**Terri Lipelt** - (Todd's brother)  
**Jimmy Johnson** - (Sharon Chafin's cousin)  
**Lisa Flynn** - (Carol Anderson's niece)  
**Steven, Shawn and Jessie** - (Terri's family)  
**Veralyn and Dennis Bash** - (sister and brother-in-law of Lester Boerger)  
**Paul and Donita Boerger** - (Lester Boerger's parents)  
**Erin Gaines** - (Frank Gaine's daughter-in-law)  
**Sandy Thompson** - (Bob and Evie Thompson's daughter-in-law)

**Bob Freeman** - (Cancer surgery)  
**Donelle Arkley** - (Michael Snitker's sister)  
**Grace Ashley**-(Ro Shanklin's sister-in-law)  
**Maxine Rogers** - (Lonnie Rose's sister)  
**Pam Eckert** - (Friend of Dawn Stroschein)  
**Alan Johnston** - (Alice Johnston's son)  
**Judy Oelkers** - (Pat Durand's cousin)  
**Dick Larson**  
**Lu Butler**  
**A.J. Houle** - (Dick and Nancy Larson's son-in-law)  
**Alan Johnston** - (Alice Johnston's son)  
**Sheryl Griefe** - (Friend of Dick and Nancy)  
**Maureen Brown** - (Ann Jarvimaki's sister)  
**Terry Nolan**

We are open and affirming.  
We are Spiritually Progressive.  
We take the Bible seriously, not literally.  
No matter who you are or where you are  
on life's journey, you are welcome here!



## January

7	Glenn Seeley	13	Lucille Butler
7	Henrietta Smith	13	Marilyn Silverness
8	Clay Silverness	15	Nolan Shaffer
10	Jim Heglund	19	Jordan Watson
11	Laurie Jones	20	Nancy Larson
11	Charlene Merz	23	Lisa van der Steur
		29	Dawn Stroschein

# HAPPY/THANKFUL OFFERINGS

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

## December 3, 2017

All the fun we had decorating the church yesterday and for Steven's hard work.  
-Terri

In memory of my mom, whose last church service was at Parkway 18 years ago.  
-Lisa van der Steur

Marlene's 76th birthday!  
Happy Birthday Mom! (12/2)  
-Jim and Dawn

46 years of marriage (Dec. 4) to a wonderful guy.  
-Kay

Reaching my life-long dream of becoming a Jedi Master. If you are curious, ask Charlene. She'll love to tell you all about it.  
-Greg Merz

## December 17, 2017

The fun of working with the Parkway team at Noel at Noon.  
-Emily Braun

David Goettsch's salsa!  
Yum, it was so good.  
-Emily Braun

Ho Ho Ho - 88  
Happy Birthday Jerry Durand!  
-Mrs. Claus

For Lonnie's help this morning!  
-Heglunds

I'm happy for Margaret Heglund's birthday Dec. 15 and thankful for her friendship.  
-Nancy Larson

Our Great-Grandchild, Jaylen Patrick, and Mom, Cassie Lewis are coming home today. Mom and son are doing good!  
-Pat & Jerry Stone

My new job that I start tomorrow at American Mortgage & Equity Consultants.  
-Julie Hartfiel

## December 31, 2017

Carol and Kathy helping me when I needed them.  
-Gerry Hartley

## **NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that there will be a Congregational meeting of the members of Parkway United Church of Christ, January 21, 2018, at 11:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the church at 3120 Washburn Avenue North, Minneapolis, MN, **for the purpose of approving the 2018 budget.**

### **January Coffee Hour: Church Council**

#### **January Drivers      Flowers**

7 Dave Hendel	7 Open
14 Brad Jones	14 Open
21 Char Merz	21 Open
28 Dave Hendel	28 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)**

## Parkway Courier

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

Telephone: 612-522-2982

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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**

## Minnehaha Falls in January





# Parkway United Church of Christ

## January 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7 p.m. Victory AA	2	3 6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Choir Practice	4	5	6 Private Funeral 2-7 Truth in Spirit
7 10 a.m. Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11 a.m. Coffee Hour 12:30 CWOW	8 7 p.m. Victory AA  HUB meeting in the social hall	9 10 a.m. Bible Study	10 6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Choir Practice	11 11:30 a.m. Out to Lunch Bunch	12	13 10-2 Undecorate the church 2-7 Truth in Spirit
14 10 a.m. Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11 a.m. Coffee hour 11:15 Baby Shower	15  7 p.m. Victory AA	16 10 a.m. Bible Study	17 10:30 Finance meeting 6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Choir Practice	18 7 p.m. Council	19	20 2-7 Truth in Spirit
21 10 a.m. Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:15 Congo meeting	22 7 p.m. Victory AA	23 10 a.m. Bible Study 5:45 Church Planning Team meets	24 6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Choir Practice  <i>Courier Deadline</i>	25	26	27 2-7 Truth in Spirit
28 10 a.m. Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11 a.m. Linger Lunch 12:30 CWOW	29 7 p.m. Victory AA	30 10 a.m. Bible Study	31 6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Choir Practice			