



# Parkway Courier



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January 2019

## Good News for a Good Year by Pastor Kathy Itzin

For several hundred years, people have believed that the earth, and everything on it was here for our use. If humans are the highest form of life, why not use (and abuse) lesser forms? This view was reinforced by the common understanding of Genesis 1. “*God said, ‘...fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over ... every living thing that moves over the earth.’*” Biblical scholars now teach that a more accurate translation for “dominion” is “stewardship.”

When people were hunter/gatherers, or farmers, it was easy to see the cycles of life acting within all living things. The industrial revolution changed this worldview, with people deciding how to best use (mine or manufacture) massive amounts of ‘things.’ They wanted to get the most ‘bang for their buck.’ Soil, sand, rock, and water were seen in terms of how they could be used, rather than being appreciated for the gifts that they are.

Around 400 BCE, Plato wrote, “The universe is a single living creature that contains all living creatures within it.” People had shared this understanding for thousands of years. Today, science has revealed that it is actually true! Quantum physics (the study of the smallest atomic and subatomic waves and particles) shows that All of creation, and the universe itself, shares life and varying degrees of consciousness.

We realize now that the universe communicates with itself instantly across enormous distances. Energy, which is invisible, makes up 96% of the universe, while everything else that we can see: trees, people, animals and galaxies, comprise only 4% of what is out there. The universe is constantly abuzz with energy! At every moment, the universe is expanding, and continuing to grow.

One of the most amazing realizations is that Every Single Thing; from atoms to grass to tigers, share some level of consciousness! All things have a kind of self-organizing capacity. Photons (parts of an atom) change in relation to other photons, and that’s about the smallest particle we can find. Max Planck, the developer of quantum theory, states that all created matter comes from consciousness (which we could call ‘God’), and all matter shares some form of consciousness. (Max Planck *The Observer*, 1931)

We know that Native American spirituality emphasizes the inter-connectedness of all things in the great web of life. This is a fundamental truth of most world faiths. Buddhists, Christians, Jews, Muslims and Hindus all share awe at the marvelous power and interdependency of life.

When we think that we are living beings trudging along with other living beings on a dead planet, it is easy to exploit the earth for our own personal gain. That is what has gotten us into so much trouble.

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But when we know that we share life and are in relationship with all the rest of creation, that is a whole different story! If we are in relationship with other conscious beings, then we will want to care for and appreciate all these amazing lifeforms! If a viewpoint of 'using things' has led us into global crises, a world view of respect for infinite expressions of life would lead us into caring relationships.

How do you view the world? New discoveries in science illuminate truths that we have always known. We, (all life forms – even those we used to think of as inanimate) are all connected. Even more than that, we are **related**. We can change our world view and enjoy our 'relatives.' And in doing so, we will change the world! That's Good News, for a Good New Year!

"Be the change you want to see in the world!" - Ghandi

Happy Connected, Relational New Year!

## January Scriptures

### January 6 Epiphany

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

**Matthew 2: 1-12** (Wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born King of the Jews")?

### January 13 Baptism of Christ

**Isaiah 43: 1-7** (Do not fear...I have called you by name, you are mine).

**Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22** (John baptizes Jesus.)

### January 20 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany – Congregational Meeting

**Isaiah 62: 1-5** (You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord...the Lord delights in you...as a bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you).

**John 2: 1-11** (Wedding at Cana).

### January 27 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

**1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a** (We are all important parts of the one body of Christ, and we are each given different gifts for different forms of ministry).

**Luke 4: 14-21** (Jesus went to teach in the synagogue and read "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me...to bring good news to the poor, proclaim release to the captive and to the oppressed, and to give sight to those who can not see).



*New Hope*

## Out to Lunch Bunch

The Out to Lunch Bunch will gather at Country Kitchen, 7849 42<sup>nd</sup> Ave. N., in New Hope on January 10, at 11:30 a.m. Please call the church office and let us know you'll be joining the group.

# 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 is the first week:

January 1 – Start a journal for this new year; keeping alert to signs of hope and possibilities you see locally and in the wider world.

January 2 – Take a fresh look at today's headlines; start a daily prayer practice that asks for wisdom about issues of justice and peace.

January 3 – Spend a day sharing information about resources in your community to help the unemployed to find employment.

January 4 – Create an easy-to-access "Just Act" list: include contact info for government representatives, advocacy groups, local shelters and food pantries.

January 5 – Volunteer at a senior citizens center.

January 6 – Start a blog in how we search for the Holy throughout our world. Where do we look for signs of God's presence?

Come to church on Sunday, January 6 to see the week of January 7-13!

Here are some selected actions from January:

Open yourself to a moment of illumination today – where is God trying to get your attention?

Look into sponsoring one of God's beloved children or elderly through Global Ministries at [ucc.org](http://ucc.org).

Show your love for a neighbor by taking them to an appointment.

Let us share God's love!

## Parkway Courier

Charlene Merz, Editor

The deadline for the February Courier is January 23.

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** – The board met on December 2. It was a very short meeting. The board thanked Nancy Larson and Carol Anderson who went shopping for the Thanksgiving meal at St. Anne's Place. They were very thankful.

The board's big decision was the distribution of the Church in Community funds. This year it was unanimously decided to give all of the 780.18 to the Parkway Youth Mission Trip to New York.

The Board will not meet in January. The next meeting will be February 3, 2019.

**Board of Diaconate** – The board met on December 9.

We will undecorate the church on Saturday, Jan. 12, the Saturday after Epiphany. Please meet at 10:00. Kathy will provide treats. We will post a sign up list.

On December 30<sup>th</sup>, Lessons and Carols Sunday, Kathy will be gone. Carol is working. Greg Merz is selecting readings, and Dianne will coordinate readers.

Tom Malaske will read the Call to Worship, and a reading.

Dianne will organize readers, provide the Call to Worship, lead the offering & pastoral prayers, and benediction.

David and Janet Goettsche will do the Advent Reading and light the Advent/Christmas candles

A sign up sheet for Christmas cookies will be posted and the Diaconate will be needed to help set up for Christmas Eve.

Christmas Eve service is at 4:00 here. Deacons please come to help by 3:00 or 3:30.

Christmas Eve candlelight service at Robbinsdale (Kathy & T. Michael presiding) is at 10:00 pm with caroling starting about 9:40.

Christmas Day Communion Service (told from one who was there) is at 10:00 on Christmas morning.

January Deacons are Tom and Kathy Malaske

Linger Lunch will be held in January, February and March.

Members were concerned about Jeff Zhang and discussed how they could help.

**Board of Finance did not meet in December.**

**Council did not meet in December.**

## January Coffee Hour: Church Council

### January Drivers

6 Dave Hendel  
13 Dave Hendel  
20 Char Merz  
27 Char Merz

### Flowers

6 Open  
13 Open  
20 Open  
27 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)**



- |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 7 Henrietta Smith     | 15 Nolan Shaffer      |
| 10 Jim Heglund        | 20 Nancy Larson       |
| 11 Laurie Jones       | 23 Lisa van der Steur |
| 11 Charlene Merz      | 29 Dawn Stroschein    |
| 13 Marilyn Silverness | 31 Henry Lee          |

## HAPPY/THANKFUL OFFERINGS

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

### **December 2, 2018**

Thank you, Kevin, for helping us walk from our car to the door. Special thanks for getting my glasses.  
-Carol Bulchuck

### **December 9, 2018**

All of the helpers we had for Noel at Noon last Wednesday.  
-Bonnie

I am thankful for neighbors!  
-Gerry Hartley

### **December 24, 2018**

"Life, Love & Family"  
-Chris & Jen

Our condolences and prayers are with Kay Leerssen and family on the passing of Jim Leerssen on December 29. A funeral will be held at Parkway on Monday, January 7.

### **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 20, 2019, 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 2019 budget.

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

**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**

**OPEN AND AFFIRMING  
COALITION  
OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**



Party Like It's 1499!  
An Historic Milestone for Our Growing Movement!

**On December 31, we'll celebrate Open and Affirming congregation #1499, and at midnight, January 1, another milestone: the 1,500th congregation to join our Open and Affirming family--the largest and fastest growing movement of LGBTQ-welcoming churches in the world!**



# Intentions

Never underestimate the power of our intentions. If we are what we think and believe, then our attitude and the purpose behind what we do and how we live matters more than anything. This is what can make or break any aspirations we have. It's one thing to say we want to start really dedicating ourselves to yoga practice or finding ways help out in our community but without the honest intention behind it, it's easy to let things slip to the bottom of our priority list or fall off completely like another unfulfilled New Year's resolution.

*“Every morning, when we wake up, we have twenty-four brand new hours to live. What a precious gift! We have the capacity to live in a way that these twenty-four hours will bring peace, joy and happiness to ourselves and others.”*

-Zen Buddhist monk, teacher and author Thich Nhat Hanh.

The New Years holiday is a great, universal reminder but any day can be a chance for us to think about where we are headed and how we are living, to see if things need to change and decided to do better.

Today (or any day you choose), why not reflect on what you loved about the past year, all that you accomplished and where you are today? Think about your true intentions going forward on the life you want to create - and then let go! Be honest and stay open to the greatness that unfolds around you throughout the year.



## 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

## January 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6 10 a.m. Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11 a.m. Coffee Hour 12:30 CWOW	7 Leerssen Funeral 10:30 Visitation 11:30 Service 7 p.m. Victory AA	8 10 a.m. Bible Study 6 p.m. Meditation	9 10:30 a.m. Finance 6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Choir Practice	10 11:30 Out to Lunch Bunch-Country Kitchen-New Hope	11	12 10 a.m. Undecorate the church
13 10 a.m. Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:15 Diaconate	14 7 p.m. Victory AA	15 10 a.m. Bible Study	16 6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Choir Practice	17 7 p.m. Council	18	19
20 10 a.m. Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:15 Congo. Mtg.	21  7 p.m. Victory AA	22 10 a.m. Bible Study	23 6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Choir Practice <i>Courier Deadline</i>	24	25	26
27 10 a.m. Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11 a.m. Linger Lunch	28 7 p.m. Victory AA	29 10 a.m. Bible Study	30 6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Choir Practice	31		