



Parkway Courier



Volume 53, No. 5

May 2018

Spring, Pentecost, and the Life of the Church **by Pastor Kathy Itzin**

Spring is a good symbol for the life of the Church. This includes Parkway, as well as the Church Worldwide. Spring can show all the signs of new life, or not. As I write this, the world outside is enveloped in snow, even though it is mid-April. We can have Life, and New Life, even when it looks as if we are surrounded by frozen tundra.

Maybe that's why Pentecost (May 20th) is the Birthday of the Church. In the midst of an annual Jewish holiday, God 'gifted us' with something new. This was what Jesus had promised! A force of wind so powerful that their awareness, the way they saw people, and even their language and understanding, changed. Suddenly, the room wasn't full of strangers, foreigners from different lands, but instead it was filled with 'family'. They understood each other, through different accents and languages, and they knew what each other meant when they spoke.

God invades our world, too! We can recognize the common humanity of children dying in Syria, of families suffering from famine in Africa. We see the common need and suffering of those around us, even when they speak or look differently than we do. We are family. These are our brothers and sisters in the Holy Spirit of God, just like on that first Pentecost.

Now we know! We can't pretend that anyone is different than we are, because we know that they are our sisters and brothers. They may have different life experiences, but that can't change the fundamental truth that we are related.

This is also true as Parkway explores relationships with other churches. Whether they are suburban, UCC, or other denominations, we are definitely sisters and brothers in the Holy Spirit, in the family of God, and that is the main thing. We may use different words, sing different songs, or experience a different feel in worship. That's ok. In fact, it's more than 'ok.' 'New life' means 'different life.'

When a new child is born, or when someone joins the family, we don't expect things to remain the same. Habits, routines, and family gatherings are different. There are new people around the table. There is new life in the family! This is true with us now. We are called to move into new life.

Spring, New Life, The Holy Spirit, Pentecost, the Birthday of the Church. Let us walk into New Life with eyes, minds, and hearts wide open!

May Scriptures

May 6 6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 10: 44-48 (The Holy Spirit is given to the non-Jews outside Jerusalem; on Pentecost it was only given to those gathered in Jerusalem)

John 15: 9-17 (As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; remain in my love)

May 13 (Jesus' Ascension to God) Mother's Day

Ephesians 1: 15-23 (I know your faith, and your love towards all, so I always give thanks for you, and remember you in my prayers)

Luke 24: 44-53 (Jesus tells the disciples to remain in Jerusalem until they receive God's power, then he ascends to heaven)

May 20 Pentecost Confirmation of Haley Bloomquist

Romans 8: 22-27 (All of creation has been groaning in labor pains until now ... and the Spirit helps us in our weakness)

Acts 2: 1-2 1 (The Holy Spirit comes to all gathered in Jerusalem)

May 27 Trinity Sunday (Kathy gone - Dianne Star preaches)

Isaiah 6: 1-8 (Isaiah has a vision of God, who asks, "Whom shall I send?" and Isaiah answers, "Here I am; send me!")

John 3: 1-8 (The story of Nicodemus, and "you must be born of the Spirit," which goes wherever it wills...)



Out to Lunch Bunch

The Out to Lunch Bunch will meet at Fat Nat's, 3540 Winnetka Ave. N. in Crystal at 11:30 a.m. This is a simple eatery offering classic American fare for breakfast and lunch such as egg dishes and sandwiches. Please call the church and let us know you will be coming. All are welcome! This is a lively bunch to lunch with.



Parkway Courier

Charlene Merz, Editor

The deadline for the June Courier is May 23.

Please bring your articles to the church office or email them to Parkwayucc@gmail.com

All articles are appreciated!



Families Moving Forward

by Emily Braun

When a family member decided to update her home furnishings, she had a small conundrum. What should she do with her gently used furniture? With no family member needing the gently used furniture she asked me if Families Moving Forward (FMF) could use the furniture.

FMF is a social services program which assists families that are homeless to resolve their barriers to housing and stabilize their lives. We participate in this program by housing families in the program for a week, three times a year. The reasons for homelessness are many and the barriers the families work through to find housing are considerable and challenging. The family groups come to the program with a variety of needs for services and assistance in setting up their homes. Support in setting up new housing with home furnishing allows the families to better settle into their new housing.

As you move through updating, downsizing, or dissolving an estate, and as you consider what to do with the furnishings, I encourage you to consider FMF. If you are not comfortable with calling the FMF Day Center (612 529 2815), the church office (612 522 2982) or I (Emily Braun 612 562 3677) can make the call for you. The important information to convey is what you have that can be donated, where the item can be gathered up, and when the articles are available. Not all pieces you may have will be needed, and we trust you will appreciate the balance FMF needs to maintain in helping the families with the limited amount of storage area they have.

At the time of my family member's inquiry there was a family who could use the couch and kitchen table set. FMF arranged to pick up the furniture and move it to the family in need. It was a good fit and a good solution benefiting all.

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING



By Ann Jarvimaki for the Board of Community Outreach

Please join us in planting the seed needed to grow and sustain our denomination by making a gift to the **Strengthen the Church** offering.

The **Strengthen the Church** offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

As God calls our congregation to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

IN 2017 your support made possible:

*12 awards totaling almost \$350,000 through the new and renewing spiritual communities grant program.

*The Adese Fellowship program launched its first class of 14 future church leaders!

*The addition of 24 new faith communities to the UCC!

Stigma, Costs, Treatments

This is the third of three articles on mental disorders by Dianne Star.

The Church often treats “the least of these” poorly. Persons with mental disorders are no exception. From ancient times to today, there are religious organizations who believe mental illness is a demonic possession or a punishment from God. They also believe that those with mental illness need to pray harder or get a “right” relationship with God. Persons who take their own lives are denied church funerals and burials. Even in congregations that acknowledge mental illness as a health issue, there is discomfort in talking about mental health issues.

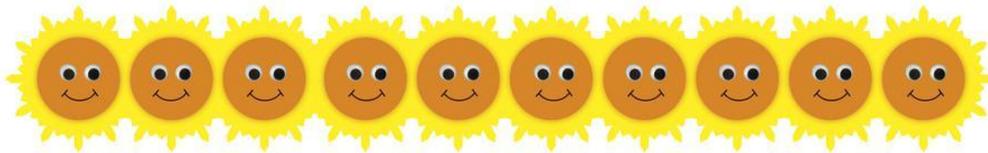
Society also has not treated persons with mental illness well. Societal beliefs include that mental illness is a character flaw or caused by poor parenting. This stigmatizes the individuals and their families. Some laws allow the government to seize the property and assets of people who take their own lives. The phrase “committed suicide” was used to support these laws. The state psychiatric hospitals (circa 1870-present) are often underfunded and understaffed. The 1963 Community Mental Health Act allowed only those persons who were a threat to themselves or others to remain in the state facilities. The rest moved back into communities ill-prepared to care for them. Some moved from state hospital to state prison.

Currently, the media and some of our politicians are associating mental health issues with violence. Reports on mass shootings by white persons always talk about the person’s mental health. This is a grave disservice to persons with mental disorders.

What can we, as individuals and as people of God, do? Here are some ideas:

- 1) Educate yourself about mental health disorders. May is Mental Health Awareness Month and May 10 is National Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day. Recommended websites include nami.org, mhn-ucc.blogspot.com, mentalhealthmn.org
- 2) Parkway can take steps to become a UCC WISE congregation - Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged for Mental Health
- 3) Change your language and call out others for their language. Persons with mental disorders are not crazies or lunatics, and people who take their own lives do not “commit” suicide.
- 4) Contact your representatives and urge them to support parity in health insurance, and mental health evaluations for children and youth.
- 5) Share your story. How have you or your family been affected by mental health issues?

As we learn about the UCC’s 3 Great Loves, let us purposely include persons with mental disorders in our Love of Neighbor and Love of Children.



May Coffee Hour: Board of Diaconate

May Drivers

Flowers

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 6 Char Merz | 6 Open |
| 13 Dave Hendel | 13 In honor of Charlene Merz and Sharon Merz from the Merz kids. |
| 20 Char Merz | 20 Open |
| 27 Dave hendel | 27 In celebration of our 45th Wedding Anniversary. Ann and Jim Jarvimaki |

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Fundraisers

by Emily Braun

Let's put the fun in fundraisers!

Parkway has two fundraisers on the calendar for 2018. The first one is the Yard Sale the first Saturday in June and the other is the Silent Auction in November. Both are fun to work on. There is the camaraderie of being with our church family, good eats, and the satisfaction of financial rewards from the efforts put forth. Both involve moving product from the church grounds to new homes. You are invited to join the fun.

A few more words about the differences between the events will help you plan for both.



Coordinating with the annual Victory Memorial Garage Sale, we have our Yard Sale the first Saturday in June. This year it is June 2. Contributions are accepted for a couple of weeks before the sale at the church building. The items we sell in the event are gently used household items. Our best sellers have been children's play items, tools, and kitchen items. This is your opportunity to go through your abode and clear out items you no longer need.

We set up the yard sale the day of the event. Volunteers are needed throughout the day from early morning set up of tents and tables (comes with the benefit of coffee and sweets), to sales throughout the day, and breakdown, shutdown and clearing it all away.



The Silent Auction is held on Stewardship Sunday in November. For this event we invite you to think about one of a kind items that you would love to own or give as a gift. Embroidered kitchen towels, quilts, knit sweater, mittens or shawls, preserves, handmade jewelry, wood crafts, services like yard work, professional sport paraphneilia or teaching events are all good sellers. We will be able to accept your donations for the auction for a couple of weeks before the event. This event is set up the Saturday before the event. With an eye on how to

best display the donated services and products the setup is a time for creativity and fun. This year we will have a wine and cheese pre-bidding open house the night before the auction. The vision is for those who cannot make it to the auction the next day will have the opportunity put down their serious bids for the items they want. The breakdown and shut down is the same day of the event.

Tell your neighbor and friends and extended family members about both events and bring them to the fun!

HAPPY/THANKFUL OFFERINGS

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

April 1, 2018

The three Lenten services.
The speakers were all informative and inspiring. Thanks to all who brought soup and breads.
-John and Mary Lou

April 1, 2018

We raised two sons with no broken bones. But in the last 3 months, Tom broke his foot, John broke his wrist, and now Dave broke his knee in a skiing accident. We are thankful he came through surgery okay.
- John and Mary Lou

April 8, 2018

We are offering this gift because we are happy to announce the birth of our Great Granddaughter, Riley Lynn, born last Monday morning.
-Bob and Evie

News of the Boards

Board of Diaconate

The board met on April 8. Haley Bloomquist will be confirmed on Pentecost Sunday, May 20. Plans for the celebration will be made at the May meeting. Haley did an excellent job reading scripture at a service, as well as Maundy Thursday, helped serve communion on communion Sunday and has been an attentive student in her confirmation studies.

Time was spent evaluating the Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter services. In general, everyone was very happy with the services, and we appreciate the work of the Creative Worship Committee, and the new ideas they suggested. Loved the new flower arrangements, loved the Easter story telling by Kevin Korell.

We give thanks to Gerry Hartley for her many years of service, who has resigned from the board.

Board of Finance

The board met on April 11. The Endowment Fund lost \$888.31 due to downward trends in the stock market.

We had the yearly evaluation with our insurance company, Selective, and it they recommended a couple changes to our policy which the board unanimously approved and will update Council.

The board discussed having the kitchen recertified and advertise the use of it to food truck vendors for preparing their food. Char and Jim will look into what needs to be done.

Board of Community Outreach

The board did not meet in April because Easter fell on the meeting day. The board is collecting Mother's Day gifts from the congregation for the residents at St. Anne's Place. The board will meet again on May 6.

Board of Property Report

The usual maintenance was done around the church. Once the snow has melted from the roof, the roofer will be back to evaluate the flat part of the roof over the area of the handicap restroom and kitchen and decide what needs to be done to stop the leaking.

Council

Council met on April 12. As well as the items reported for the above boards:

There was discussion of the joint council meeting with Robbinsdale UCC and Union UCC. We talked about the difference between consolidating and merging. Our choice is consolidation.

Kathy passed out a letter from Salem Lutheran and how we will respond was discussed. Kathy and Greg will write a letter back to Salem and send it out for the Council's approval and suggestions. Once the final draft is written, Kathy and Greg will sign it and we'll send it out. The Council has given the Church Planning Team some suggestions for them to look into and they will meet at the end of April.

Emily asked if we would be open to having yoga classes at Parkway. Council approved. Emily will see if that works with the instructor.

Kathy's Minister Report: Carol is having knee replacement surgery on Tuesday, April 24 and Kathy will be out of the office that week except for Monday. Then two weeks after that, Kathy is having knee replacement surgery and will be out of the office for two weeks. Char will cover for Kathy in the office while she is out and Dianne Star will preach one Sunday.



Please Remember in Your Prayers

Gerry Hartley
Rose Marie Lund – (Durand's daughter)
Jim & Kay Leerssen
Marlene Mars
Harriet Thompson
Parkway Church
Eunice Shore
Brett Sprague
Laura Mylan - (Friend of Janet Zahn)
Jan Schwarz
Karen Anderson
Terry Lipelt - (Todd's brother)
Bob Dooley - (Lu Senescall's son-in-law)
Lisa Flynn - (Carol Anderson's niece)
Bill Morrison
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)
Frank Gaines
Lu Butler
A.J. Houle - (Dick and Nancy Larson's son-in-law)
Sheryl Griefe - (Friend of Dick and Nancy)
Terry Nolan
Jean Rossmar - (David Goettsch's sister)
Carl Colburne - (Jean Rossmar's partner)
James Karst



5	Karen Lerum	14	Donna Saldin
8	Stephanie Lee	15	Isabella Sprague
8	Lonnie Rose	17	Bonnie McClain
8	Dianne Star	18	Gerry Hartley
10	Troy Lark	23	Andy Goettsch
13	Travis Bloomquist	23	Jan Schwarz
		28	Julie Hartfiel

What's Coming Up in Next Month's Courier?

A special article about the extinction of honey bees and how we can do our part to help save them.

A performance review about who's going to perform at 'LIVE ON THE DRIVE' this year and the dates.

MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISING. How you can help send our youth on the 2018 Mission Trip to Chicago this summer (August 2-9).

Parkway Courier

An Open and Affirming Church

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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

What does Summer mean to me?

What DOES summer mean to you?

Do you have a favorite summer memory?

Or a family/friend tradition that you do in the summer?

Are you a poet or story writer?

Did you take that special lifetime trip to some exotic place in the summer?

Did you experience a summer that stands out in your memory as being "the best summer ever"?

During the summer we usually combine the June and July Couriers into just one because most of our boards and the choirs are on summer break. This year instead of having a June/July combined issue, we will have a special issue for July with just 'Summer Stories'. We have a lot of writing talent in the church--A LOT--and I know there are memories, stories and poems that you would all love to submit to this special issue. Put on your thinking caps or sit on the porch, patio, cabin, or backyard table and chairs and put something on paper and send it to Parkwayucc@gmail.com or turn it into the office and I'll put together a special issue just for July with all your summer wonder. If you don't want your name printed with your submission, that's okay, just let me know. Oh yeah, photos are okay too, as long as they're G-rated. I'm looking forward to all your memories! ---Charlene, your editor!

The deadline is June 15!

Parkway United Church of Christ

May 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		10 a.m. bible Study	10:30 a.m. Bd Finance 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Choir Practice			
10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:15 Diaconate meets Families Moving Fwd	7 p.m. Victory AA	10 a.m. Adult Class	6 p.m. Bell Choir	11:30 a.m. Out to Lunch Bunch	Truth in Spirit 6 p.m	Truth in Spirit wedding All Day
Families Moving Fwd	Families Moving Fwd	Families Moving Fwd	Families Moving Fwd	Families Moving Fwd	Families Moving Fwd	Families Moving Fwd
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<i>Mother's Day</i>						
10 a.m. Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11 a.m. Coffee Hour 12:30 CWOW	7 p.m. Victory AA	10 a.m. Adult Class				
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
10 a.m. Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11 a.m. Coffee Hour 12:30 CWOW	7 p.m. Victory AA	10 a.m. Adult Class				
			Courier Deadline			
27	28	29	30	31		
10 a.m. Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11 a.m. Coffee Hour 12:30 CWOW	<i>Memorial Day</i> 7 p.m. Victory AA Open Meeting	10 a.m. Adult Class				