



## Mary's Song by Pastor Kathy Itzin

Bonnie recently let me know that the fourth Sunday of December will be 'Mary Sunday.' The scriptures that day (Luke 1: 39-55) tell the story of Mary's visit to Elizabeth, her cousin. Both amazingly, were pregnant, 'filled with the Holy Spirit,' and Mary sang her powerful and beautiful 'Song of Praise.' Her song/prayer/poem is also called 'The Magnificat,' because of the first line, "My soul magnifies the Lord." Whenever I heard that story, I would think, "Well, of course. She's going to be the mother of Jesus, the Son of God, the King of the World. Why **wouldn't** she sing a song of joy and praise?"

But Mary didn't know what would happen. She was young, alone, engaged, and pregnant. She had left her father's house to visit an older cousin, and we could imagine that things were not good at home. She wouldn't have known yet what the angel meant when he or she predicted great things for this child. She certainly didn't know what her son's life would be like, or even what would happen when she returned to her father's house. Would she get married? Be shamed by her relatives? Be stoned for committing adultery?

And yet, in the middle of the situation, Mary believed that she was gifted by God. She sang a beautiful song of praise, and a beautiful song about God's power to make things right. "He has scattered the proud in the conceit of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things but sent the rich away empty."

She knows she is living in hard times, and in all likelihood, it would get harder before it got better. She was young, unmarried, and pregnant, and she still needed to go home. Her life wasn't likely to be easy.

But in the midst of that, Mary was able to recognize God's presence in the moment. The baby in Elizabeth's womb was kicking. Elizabeth was old but had been given new life. Mary was carrying a child too, even though she was surrounded by trouble. While she didn't have any answers, Mary could celebrate the goodness that was there.



# November Scriptures

## November 4 Proper 26 (Shannon & Alex join the church – Also short celebration of ‘All Saints’- time to mention those we love who have died)

**Ruth 1: 1-18** (Wherever you go, I will go, wherever you live, I will live...)

**Mark 12: 28-34** (Which is the greatest commandment? ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and the second is like it, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’)

## November 11 Proper 27 (Stewardship Sunday)

**Ruth 3: 1-5, 4: 13-17** (Ruth marries again, and has a child - good can come from tragedy)

**Mark 12: 38-44** (Widow’s mite)

## November 18 Proper 28 Thanksgiving Service at Robbinsdale

**1 Samuel 1: 4-20** (Hannah is childless, but prays in the temple and eventually gives birth to a son)

**Mark 13: 1-8** (Jesus predicts the destruction of the temple)

## November 25 Reign of Christ/Thanksgiving

**2 Samuel 23: 1-7** (One who rules over people justly, ruling in awe of God is like the light of morning, like the sun rising on a cloudless morning, gleaming from the rain on the grassy land)

**John 18: 33-37** (Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”)



## Out to Lunch Bunch

The Out to Lunch Bunch will meet at Baker’s Square, 8000 Brooklyn Blvd., Brooklyn Park 55445, at 11:30 a.m. on November 8. Please call the church and let us know you will be coming. All are welcome! The pie will be amazing!

### **November Coffee Hour: Families Moving Forward**

#### **November Drivers**

4 Dave Hendel  
11 Char Merz  
18 Dave Hendel  
25 Char Merz

#### **Flowers**

4 Open  
11 Open  
18 Open  
25 Open

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

## Parkway Courier

Charlene Merz, Editor

The deadline for the November Courier is November 21.

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

All articles are appreciated!

# Shared Thanksgiving Service at Robbinsdale!

We will have a joint Thanksgiving service with Robbinsdale UCC on November 18<sup>th</sup>, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, followed by a potluck lunch. Join us for a joint Service of Thanksgiving, and bring something good to share! Those interested in joining in the singing of the Anthem and Offertory are invited to join other singers in the Robbinsdale sanctuary at 9:00.



## Advent Church Decorating!

Join us on Saturday, December 1 as we decorate the church for Advent! It will be beautiful! Please come at 10:00, and bring your friends! Sign up in the hallway, so we have an idea of how many to expect. Kathy will have coffee and bagels!

## Is Your 2018 Pledge Up to Date? By Patrick Liestman for the Board of Finance

When I talk with friends who do not attend any church, but profess they are “spiritual” in their own way I often wonder how much fulfillment they are getting out of brunch and the Sunday paper. They claim every church they have had experiences with tend to be about nothing but money. I have not had that experience at Parkway Church, but there are times it can’t be avoided. Unfortunately, this is about the money.

The Parkway Congregation approved the 2018 budget which reflected years of tweaking, budget cuts, more of the extras being from extra contributions or volunteerism and increasing pledges. We have, so far, stuck to that budget and we have not asked for an increase in withdrawals from the endowment. The budget seems to be working quite well for us this year....except for the amount of expected pledges coming in each week. You have heard Char Merz and Nancy Larson report on this the last few Sundays and mention of it was in last month’s Courier. At this time we are \$38,360 behind where we should be and we are not even close to matching where past years say we should be. **This is an urgent situation.** Please consider doing what you can to get your pledge up to date. There always seems to be something in life that gets in the way of our best intentions so if 2018 has not been so good for you and you are substantially behind in your pledge, you may want to let Pastor Kathy know. You can remain anonymous or perhaps get some support from our community if you need it. In any case, the Treasurer and Board of Finance will have an expectation of a year-end amount and what steps we may need to take. Perhaps if you had a very good year you could add a little extra for those not able to make their pledge.

Parkway Church is a place where amazing things happen. I have experienced times when I have had questions about faith, life, goodness versus evil, society, feeling at times that nothing makes any difference or just needing direction and ironically, there will be a reading, a sermon or someone will say some small thing during coffee hour that answers my questions or soothes my soul just when I need it. During the last year, feeling stressed and useless, I passed by Parkway and the sign out front said, “God is at the End of Your Rope.” I immediately felt the Spirit around me, let God take over and felt relief. Last month the sign read, “God is not a white man, the church is not a building.” This church is not a building. It is a community that feeds the hungry, shelters the homeless, provides clothing and basic needs to those less fortunate and so many other ministries. It is a community of spiritual fulfillment and a community for God’s work. On earth, God’s work may take money to accomplish. Please give consideration to what you can do to catch up on 2018 pledges and what we can do for 2019 pledges as we move forward.

# Thanksgiving at St. Ann's Place

By Carol Anderson for the Board of Community Outreach



## THANKSGIVING DAY IS NOVEMBER 22

FOR YOUR FAMILY, OUR FAMILY AND ST. ANNE'S PLACE FAMILIES

The Board of Community Outreach proudly announces that this is Parkway's 17<sup>th</sup> year providing all the groceries and baked pies for the families at St. Ann's Place on Thanksgiving Day. The residents and staff gather together to share in this meal of thanksgiving while awaiting news of a more permanent home.

The guests number between 60-65. We need 8 – 10 pies.

**Home Baked Pies** {Tins cannot be returned} to be in the Parkway kitchen by 10 am on Wednesday November 21.

Please be GENEROUS when you fill your Thanksgiving envelope or sign up to bake a pie. A sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board by the fellowship hall.

The Board of Community Outreach THANKS you in advance.

## Reverse Advent Calendar

An Advent Calendar counts down the days until Christmas from the 1st of December until Christmas Day. You get to open a little door on the calendar every day to reveal a gift inside. That gift maybe chocolates, Christmas tree ornaments, trinkets, or other presents.

This year the Board of Community Outreach is doing a **Reverse Advent Calendar**. Each day you ADD an item to a box and on Christmas Eve you donate the contents to a Charity. The Board of Community Outreach will suggest the Charities. Watch for ideas for the **Reverse Advent Calendar** on Parkway's bulletin board.



## The Sharing Tree

By Ann Jarvimaki

We will again be having the Sharing Tree in the narthex of the church during Advent. If you are doing early Christmas shopping, please think about purchasing winter hats, mittens and scarves to decorate the tree, and toys to put under it for the pediatric unit of North Memorial. Homemade items are nice too! Watch for more information in the December Courier.



# What is Stewardship?

By Charlene Merz for the Board of Finance

Stewardship. *Noun* st(y)ōdōerd Ship. The dictionary says, “the job of supervising or taking care of something, such as an organization or property.” One theological description says, “stewardship is a theological belief that humans are responsible for the world and should take care of it. Believers in stewardship are usually people who believe in one God who created the universe and all that is within it, also believing that they must take care of creation look after it.”

We are, again, in the midst of ‘Stewardship’ at Parkway. It happens each year and we all know that towards the end of the year means talking about ‘Stewardship.’ We know it means that we are going to pledge a certain dollar amount that we are committing to give to the church over the course of the next year. We have Stewardship Speakers on Sunday mornings and letters that go out to the congregation reminding us all of what our pledges will do for the church and how important they are.

Recently, one of our young people asked me, “What is this Stewardship thing and why is it giving money?” So, we looked it up and talked about it. And this young person then said, “Well, I don’t have any money to give every Sunday, but I can do some stuff to help.” And then after talking about ways to help out around the church, this same young one said, “Well, in Jesus’s time, not everyone had money to give, so did they just help and do stuff too?” Yes, yes they did. When Jesus was going about his travels and teaching people all the things he was teaching, many people ‘helped’ by spreading the teachings of Jesus and the goodness that comes with learning new things. Things and ideals and beliefs that we still practice today based on the teachings of Jesus. Not just when we are at church or participating in church activities, but in our every day life, at our jobs, at school, out in public, at social events—always—it’s who we are.

When we were looking up stewardship, we looked at many different ideas that popped up, “What does a steward do?” “What does good stewardship mean?” “Why is stewardship important?” “What is a stewardship program?” “What is the concept of stewardship?” There were a lot more, but each one of these questions had a short one to two sentence answer and in each one of them the words “*taking care of*” were there.

At Parkway we *take care of* a lot of things. And yes, we need some money to do it. We pay our minister to teach us about scripture in the bible and how it impacts what we do in our lives. We pay her to take care of our sick and elderly, console and pray with those that need help and guidance, and bring us fresh ideas about what is happening in the greater UCC. We need to pay for water, electricity, gas, and building maintenance to help us with the ministry of housing the homeless so they have a safe place to stay, to provide a space for our boards and committees to meet and decide the ministries in our neighborhood and how we can be a part of them, to give families a peaceful place to remember someone who has passed and to say good bye. Included in these things that we need to pay for, is our time and effort as stewards to make all of these things happen. We volunteer the time to house the homeless by setting up comfortable rooms and cooking meals so they aren’t hungry. We volunteer time to help a family have a luncheon after a memorial service. We volunteer time to make repairs, so we don’t have to always call a repair person. We clean areas that become messy, sort through and organize spaces that haven’t been used for a while, sit in the office and answer phones, donate coffee for coffee hour, filling in during a worship service where needed and of course, taking care of each other. There are so many more, but there isn’t enough space to list them all and I’m sure you could think of quite a few more too.

Stewardship. The base meaning: *taking care of*. We are all stewards. You, me, our young people who don’t have any money to give on Sunday mornings but can help do stuff, our neighbors, our brothers and sisters around the community and in the world. Taking care of the universe that God created and looking after it. How we do it, is up to us.

# News of the Boards

**Board of Community Outreach** – St. Anne's and Ascension have merged into one organization. It's now called Haven Housing. Nancy Larson visited the main office. Carol Anderson will lead the Thanksgiving Dinner food purchasing for St. Anne's Place. The Walters made a sock delivery to Lucy Craft Laney School. They have enough socks for now, so we'll collect again next fall. The board is trying a new ministry this year called Reverse Advent Calendar. There will be an article in the Courier.

## **Board of Deaconate**

The Christmas Decorating of the church will be December 1 starting at 10 a.m. On Sunday, November 18 we will have a shared service with Robbinsdale with a potluck lunch following. There have been a couple Sundays where a Happy offering has been missed by the ushers because they were put in the wrong offering plate. The solution is to have people hand them to the ushers before the service.

## **Board of Finance**

Char reported that pledges to date are still behind. Nancy Larson is going to make an announcement on Sunday asking everyone to check to make sure they are up to date. Patrick reported that the board favored decent pledges for next year. Stewardship Sunday is November 11. One Stewardship letter has gone out and another will be sent on November 1.

**Board of Faith Formation:** Char has set up two youth events for October. For Christmas Eve she is going to have a nativity where the characters tell their own story as scripture instead of having it read and the youth come in from the back. Greg has volunteered to help with some of the writing for the stories.

**Board of Property:** Jim Jarvimaki reported that the roof repair company came to do the repairs, but found one of the metal pieces was missing. They will replace that. The cost of the repair was less than expected. Dave Hendel will purchase a case of light bulbs from the store he works at since he can get them a little cheaper with his discount. Jim has the fall clean-up company scheduled and they will probably come twice for the leaf clean-up. The new flags are up on the front of the church and they look great.

## **Council**

Met on October 18. Please see the above reports.

**New business:** Emily Braun reported that we will have a Silent Auction on November 11 (Stewardship Sunday) after the service. Emily and Char will set the items up on the afternoon of November 10 and will have a wine (approved by Council) and cheese reception that evening for people to come and preview and place early bids.

**Minister's Report:** Kathy submitted a written report covering her activities for October. We have two new members joining on November 4. She visited Lu Butler who was in the hospital and then went to a rehab center in Lake Elmo. She visited Eunice Shore and Frank Gaines. She has attended many meetings at Parkway as well as the UCC Clergy Convocation in Buffalo. We had World Communion Sunday where we had many different types of bread from various countries. She is working on the Stewardship letter which will go out on November 1.



- |    |                |    |                  |
|----|----------------|----|------------------|
| 2  | Dianne Boerger | 21 | Carol Bulchuck   |
| 2  | Tom Malaske    | 28 | Don Oney         |
| 7  | Connie Wolff   | 28 | Harriet Thompson |
| 15 | Jim Jarvimaki  | 29 | Vicky Shaffer    |

## HAPPY/THANKFUL OFFERINGS

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

### October 7, 2018

All the interesting stories and poems writers contributed to the summer Courier.

Great Work!

-Jodie Walters

A BIG thank you for the storage closet clean out. Looking good. Hope it stays that way.

-Carol Bulchuck

### October 14, 2018

Friends who picked me up today. Dick and Nancy Larson.

-Margaret Heglund

For my new great grandson born to Emily and Mike Howe. Brenda Magnuson, Daughter.

-Barbara Kinnunen

I am thankful for the new transition in life.

I am very thankful for my whole entire family and all my friends.

Thank you all for the support.

-Travis Bloomquist

Pam and Paul are engaged!

Dave and Carolyn & Cindy Haughey

## 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**

**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**

**Lu Butler**

**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)

**Armin Bulchuck**

**Bill Morrison**

**Ken & Avelle Gaines**

**Jim & Margaret Heglund**

**Paula and her family**

**Erin Gaines** - (Frank Gaine's daughter-in-law)

## 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**





# Parkway United Church of Christ

## November 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 All Saints Day	2	3  <b>Daylight Sav. Time Ends</b>
4 10 a.m. Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11 a.m. Coffee Hour 12:30 CWOW	5 7 p.m. Victory AA	6 10 a.m. Bible Study  Election Day	7 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Choir Practice	8 11:30 a.m. Out to Lunch Bunch at Baker's Square in Brooklyn Park	9	10 HUB 10-3 Social Hall 3:30-9 Emily & Char 7-9 p.m. Silent Auction preview reception
<i>Veterans Day</i> 11 10 a.m. Worship Stewardship Sunday 10:15 Sunday School 11 a.m. Silent Auction	12 Veterans Day Celebrated 7 p.m. Victory AA	13 10 a.m. Bible Study HUB 1-3 Social Hall 3:30-8 Hospice RNs in Social Hall	14 10:30 a.m. Finance 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Choir Practice	15 7 p.m. Council	16	17
18 10 a.m. Worship at Robbinsdale UCC Potluck Lunch there 12:30 CWOW	19 7 p.m. Victory AA	20 10 a.m. Bible Study	21  <i>Courier Deadline</i>	22   <i>thanksgiving</i>	23	24
25 10 a.m. Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11 a.m. Coffee Hour 12:30 CWOW	26 7 p.m. Victory AA	27 10 a.m. Bible Study	28 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Choir Practice	29	30	  <i>Photos by Janet Goettsch</i>