



January 2018  
Newsletter



## *“Lord, teach us to pray.” (Luke 11:1)*

*by Pastor Chris Fillingham*

I don't know about you, but I have often found myself perplexed in my own practice of prayer. There are all kinds of questions that surround it. I know we're **supposed** to pray. But **how** should I pray? ...even if I know how... **why**? ...and even if I think I might know why, what about when prayer feels **meaningless**? ...or even if prayer feels meaningful now, will that last? What will I do next time it becomes stale? Is there some way to infuse it with new life? Are there other approaches that would be “better?”

At times, all these questions have led me to give up on the whole thing. At other times, they have made me quite legalistic about my prayer life. How about you?

Prayer can be profoundly meaningful, transformational, and incredibly frustrating. There's an old story from the first Christian masters of prayer, the Desert Fathers:

*The brethren asked Abba Agathon: “Amongst all our different activities, father, which is the virtue that requires the greatest effort?” He answered, “Forgive me, but I think there is no labor greater than praying to God.... In everything else that a persons undertakes, if they persevere, they will attain rest. But in order to pray a person must struggle to their last breath.”*

Struggle is right. So, I thought I'd share a few thoughts with you that I've gathered in my own struggles. First, what is prayer anyway? Philip Yancey calls it “Keeping company with God.” Richard Foster describes it as a “love relationship with God.” MaryKate Morse describes it as “Roadness to God.” I tend to describe prayer as “being present to God and to my soul.”

What's the best technique for prayer? Well, that's a bit like asking, “What's the best technique for falling in love?” There isn't one best way. Falling in love happens through the confluence of so many different things: conversation, silence, writing, touch, play, etc. However, there is one essential ingredient for love: time. Love doesn't last without time spent in the presence of the other. Prayer is the same. When we don't pray we become like the married couple who always passes one another in the night, never connecting, growing more and more distant. They have forgotten why they are married in the first place. So it goes with us and God when we do not pray.

With that in mind, I want to invite you to try something new this year. Jan 14<sup>th</sup> – Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> we're going to have a very different kind of prayer retreat, “a retreat in everyday life.” In this retreat, we're inviting you to bring your struggles, your questions, and your curiosities. You will be paired up with a trained Spiritual Director who you will meet with one-on-one each Monday at Dayspring at a time that works for you. Think of this person as a guide to help you on your own journey, not an expert who is there to critique or fix you. They will invite you to pray by yourself daily throughout the week. Then, you'll meet with your Spiritual Director the following week to process your experience. This pattern will continue for four weeks.

There's no way to fail at this. No right and wrong approach. Our invitation is simply to give it a try. Bring your desire for God. Bring your frailty. And see what God might do in you over this sacred month.

~Pastor Chris

*“The root of all prayer, and indeed all life itself, is desire for God. All things are made to desire God.”*

~Roberta Bondi

# Joint MLK Service

## Sunday, Jan. 14, 5 p.m.

### Third Baptist Church

Our partnerABC churches of the St. Louis area are planning a joint service at Third Baptist Church to coincide with Martin Luther King, Jr., weekend. The service of remembrance and celebration begins at 5:00 p.m. and will feature representatives of Antioch, Dayspring, Second, Southern Union Missionary, and Third Baptist. The University of Illinois choir will also provide music. The service will be followed by a dessert reception.

Third is located at 620 N. Grand, just north of the Fox Theatre. There is secure fenced parking behind the building.

### January Birthdays

- 1 Joanne Cuddeback
- 2 Chris Waltz
- 5 Hunter Husmann
- 5 Megan Roland
- 6 Sandy Minchow-Proffitt
- 6 Kevin Sullivan
- 8 Nancy Thompson
- 10 Robert Ell
- 13 Kate Hanch
- 13 Ellie Vargo
- 14 Paul Brown
- 16 Joel Pittenger
- 19 Lyndsay Williams
- 21 Marsha Hussung
- 22 Dora Murphy
- 25 Morgan Summa
- 27 Kris Coombes

### New Year's Breakfast Buffet

**Sunday, Jan. 7, 9:30 a.m.**

Start off the new year with a bountiful breakfast buffet on Sunday, January 7, at 9:30 a.m. We hear rumors of waffles... Sunday School will not meet.

### Potluck Lunch & Bible Study

**Wed., Jan. 17**

Join us for our ongoing Lectionary Lunches, usually held the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month! Lunch is at noon and Bible study from 12:45-1:30. Bring a dish to share.

### Men's Breakfast

**Saturday, Jan. 20**

The joint men's prayer breakfast resumes this month. Join the men of Dayspring and Second Baptist on Jan. 20 at Second Baptist, 7:30 a.m.

### Church Lunch & Annual Meeting

**Sunday, Jan. 21**

Our monthly all-church lunch will be on the 21st after church. The annual meeting will follow when we will review the previous year and celebrate what we have accomplished together. Please help our caterer by making lunch reservations.

#### Our Averages in December:

Sunday Worship 108  
 Sunday school. 28

### January at Dayspring

2	Tues.	Church office closed.
3	Wed.	NO Lectionary Lunch and Bible study. Choir rehearsal resumes, 7 p.m.
7	Sun.	New Year's Breakfast Buffet, 9:30 a.m. NO Sunday School
9	Tues.	MOPS, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
14	Sun.	Prayer Retreat opening session, 2 p.m. at Parkway UCC (see p. 4). Joint Martin Luther King, Jr., service, 5 p.m., Third Baptist (see p. 2) Manna and Youth, 5-7 p.m.
16	Tues.	White Cross, 10 a.m., Anniversary Hall. Leadership Team, 6 p.m.
17	Wed.	Lectionary Lunch & Bible study, Noon.
20	Sat.	Men's Prayer Breakfast, 7:30 a.m., Second. Food Pantry, 9:15, Jubilee Church.
21	Sun.	Church lunch, annual meeting, noon.
23	Tues.	MOPS, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
28	Sun.	Manna and Youth, 5-7 p.m.

### Meeting Every Week

Sundays	9:30 10:15 10:45 Noon	Sunday School Choir warm-up Worship Service Coffee & Conversation
Wednesdays	10:30 Noon  7:00	Intercessory Prayer Ministry Potluck lunch/Bible study (1st and 3rd Wed. each month) Choir rehearsal



# Evening of Merriment

## Soup Cook-off and Ornament Construction Extravaganza!

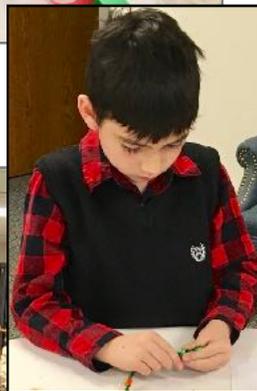
Our co-winners in the Soup Cook-off!



The Ornament Construction Extravaganza.



Picking just one soup was hard work.



# Month of Grace + Prayer: A Retreat in Everyday Life

January 14-February 11

Take the next step on your spiritual journey. Dayspring and Parkway UCC are joining forces to sponsor this prayer retreat, an opportunity for you to become more aware of God's presence in your life, to explore new ways of prayer, to discover a spiritual direction for yourself.

You will pray on your own at least 20 minutes each day and will then meet privately with a spiritual companion provided for you for one hour each week. You will be able to sign up for a morning, afternoon, or evening time each Monday for the month. Here's how the schedule will look:

- **Sunday, January 14, 2 p.m.**—opening group session at Parkway UCC.
- **Mondays, January 15, 22, 29, Feb. 5**—individual hour-long meeting with your spiritual companion at Dayspring.
- **Sunday, February 11, 2 p.m.**—closing group session at Parkway UCC.

For more information, pick up a brochure in the church narthex or visit our website at [DayspringStL.com](http://DayspringStL.com)

## Meet Our New Members

**Joe Panattoni and Monica Daloco** live in Town & Country with their two daughters, Gabriela and Bianca. They are both from Brazil, but Joe came to the US first, in 2007, to further his training in Louisville, KY. In 2011, he was recruited by Saint Louis University and has been working there ever since. Monica started dating Joe in 2013 while she was still living in Brazil. She came to take a 3-month English course at SLU and ended up getting married to Joe in August 2014. One year later, Gabriela was born and Bianca came not so long after that. Now the couple gets to enjoy a very busy life with their two young daughters. They got introduced to the Baptist church by Joe's sister, who also has two kids and advised this being a very good environment for the family. This was confirmed by Joe and Monica who appreciate coming to worship on Sundays where they can find the important balance in life and connection with God. They are very thankful for the friendly smiles they always find with Dayspring family.



## Save the Date

### **Feb. 10—Parents' Night Out**

Start your planning now for an evening out with your sweetie the weekend before Valentine's Day!

### **Feb. 24—"Clearing Out the Chatter: What We Hear and What We Miss"**

Plan to participate in a day-long interactive exploration in how to listen deeply to yourself, others, and God. Prof. MaryKate Morse, published author, spiritual director, and member of *Missio Alliance* will lead and also preach the following morning during worship. Stay tuned for more information.

## From the Leadership Team

**Trisha Crow, moderator**

In October, we asked you to pray with us as we considered the following interpretation to our Wedding Policy:

"The Leadership Team affirms our current wedding policy, which makes no distinction about who can be married in our church. As we have always done, moreover, we trust our ordained clergy to discern with the Holy Spirit the appropriateness of any wedding they are asked to perform. We put no boundaries on their freedom to accept or deny the request to perform any particular wedding."

Thank you for praying with us during the month of November. We appreciate the support and comments that we have received to help us vote on the interpretation. The Leadership Team met on December 19<sup>th</sup> and voted unanimously to affirm the above interpretation to our Wedding Policy. We felt that the interpretation reflected the congregation's healthy relationship with our ordained clergy.

# Mission and Outreach

## Mission Offering

Our January Mission Offering is designated to support **St. Louis EnergyCare**, which provides energy-related services and information for the low-income elderly, ill, disabled and families with young children in St. Louis City and County. Please make your check out to Dayspring Baptist, designated for EnergyCare.

## Circle of Concern Food Pantry

Current needs (no glass, please; place in the bins in the narthex): canned pasta, canned pasta sauce, canned meat, diapers of all sizes, toothpaste, deodorant.

Due to the cold weather, there is an urgent need for **new winter hats, gloves, blankets, throws, etc.**



## Advent at Dayspring

*Decorators*

*Decorations*

*Musicians*

*Prayers*





### **Your Church Staff:**

Chris Fillingham, Senior Pastor  
Marsha Hussung, Music Minister  
Lyndsay Williams, Youth Minister  
Stephanie Allee, Accompanist  
Hannah Allee, Manna Director  
Valerie Strate, Administrative Assistant  
Brenda Hamm, Nursery Director  
Katie Schultz, Nursery Assistant

### **Your Leadership Team:**

Trisha Crow (Worship liaison)  
President/Moderator  
Joan Barth (Hospitality liaison)  
Jr Stover (Missions liaison)  
Kate Hanch (Spiritual Formation liaison)  
Joanne Cuddeback (Stewardship liaison)

### **How to Reach Us:**

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