

KIRKWOOD KRONICLE

A Christian Community Knowing, Loving, and Serving Christ, to make Him known to all.

DEC 2018/ JAN 2019



A Letter From Our Pastor

Hello KirkWood!

As 2018 draws to a close, there is so much excitement to celebrate here at KirkWood! When I arrived in March, I really did not know what to expect. What a year it has turned out to be. From our Easter celebration back in April, to our summer schedule with blended worship, our picnic and VBS, the Sensational Summer Sunday School Seminar Series, to the Pumpkin Patch and Enchanted Forest, and now into the holidays. It has been an awesome year. I feel privileged to have been a part of it with you.

As we move into 2019, it is going to be even more exiting to see God's work unfold among us. There are a couple of things that I want to invite you to do in the coming year. First, as the Mission Study Team ramps up its work, I ask that you make the commitment to involve yourself in discerning God's desire for KirkWood's future. The Team will be conducting surveys, listening groups, town hall meetings, focus sessions, and other groups as necessary so that as many of us as possible can have input into that discernment process. I ask that you look for and respond to opportunities as they are presented.

The second invitation is one of prayer and Bible reading. It is my conviction that as we pray with and for one another while reading and studying God's word that the Holy Spirit will come among us in new and mighty ways. You can pray anywhere, anytime, about anything. I invite

you to ask God to breathe the Spirit of power into all that is KirkWood. You will be hearing about special opportunities and resources to help you engage in systematic and disciplined reading of the Bible in 2019.



KirkWood Presbyterian Church

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Email: office@kirkwoodpcusa.org

Website: <http://www.kirkwoodpcusa.org/>

Worship: 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. (nursery available)

Sunday School: 8:30 a.m. (Adults), 9:30 a.m. (Adults), 11:00 a.m. (Children, Youth, & Adults)



I pray that you will engage in that powerful discernment tool. I am very excited about the future of God’s work here at KirkWood, and I hope that you will be a part of that future.

In Christ,
Charles

<u>In This Issue</u>	
Pastor’s Letter	pg. 1-2
Weekly Readings	pg. 2
Music Ministry	pg. 3-4
Worship Services	pg. 5
Stewardship	pg. 5
Congregational Care	pg. 6-7
Special Dates	pg. 6
Property & Facilities	pg. 8
Read Scripture	pg. 9
Christian Education	pg. 10-12
Outreach	pg. 12
Missions	pg. 12-13

WEEKLY READINGS & SERMON TITLES

December 2 - Jeremiah 33:14-16 & Luke 21:25-36,
Sermon Title: A SEASON OF SURPRISE

December 9 - Genesis 12:1-5 & Romans 3:21-26,
Sermon Title: GOD’S GIFT TO YOU

December 16 - Christmas Cantata “Love Came Down at Christmas”

December 23 - Ezekiel 12:1-6 & Matthew 11:2-6,
Sermon Title: DON’T MISS CHRISTMAS

December 24 - Micah 5:1-5 & Galatians 4:4-7,
Sermon Title: READY OR NOT!

December 30 - Pastor Tucker on Vacation

January 6 - Isaiah 60:1-6 & Matthew 2:1-12,
Sermon Title: KINGS

January 13 - Isaiah 42:1-9 & Matthew 3:13-17,
Sermon Title: THE BELOVED

January 20 - Genesis 3:1-7 & Matthew 4:1-11,
Sermon Title: TEMPTED

January 27 - Isaiah 9:1-7 & Matthew 4:12-25,
Sermon Title: JESUS CALLS



MUSIC MINISTRY

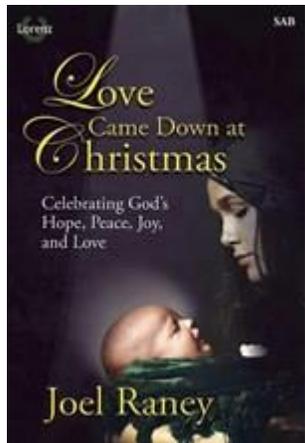
Worship

Advent Candle Lighting

Beginning Sunday, December 2nd and continuing each week through Christmas Eve, we will celebrate the lighting of the Advent candles with a responsive litany, piano, choir, bells, and congregational singing. You may already be familiar with the tune we will sing, but if not, you'll probably catch on quickly.



Each week we will focus on one aspect of Advent, lighting the candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. On Christmas Eve we will finally light the Christ candle.



Cantata Choir Presents "Love Came Down at Christmas"

On Sunday, December 16th at both worship services, the Cantata Choir will present "Love Came Down at Christmas" by Joel Raney.

The inspiration for this cantata was Christina Rossetti's poem, "Love Came Down at Christmas." What a perfect phrase to describe the very essence of Christmas! There are four main sections corresponding to the four prominent themes of Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

Cantata Choir Easter

I know it seems a bit early to be talking about Easter, when we are smack in the middle of Advent, but I wanted to plant a seed about this coming Lent and Easter. The Spring Cantata will take place on Easter Sunday, April 21st. Stay tuned for information about our Cantata boot camp!





MUSIC MINISTRY

Worship

KirkWood Children’s Choir

The KirkWood Children’s Choir has two new members! We welcome Heather and Brooke Thomas with open hearts!

Beginning in January, the Children’s Choir will begin working on our spring musical about Noah and the flood, “100% Chance of Rain.”



December schedule for the children’s choir:

- Sunday, Dec. 9th - sing “Shout it Out!” at both worship services (meet at 9:05 a.m. in the choir room)
- Saturday, Dec. 15th 10:30–11:15 a.m. Cantata Dress Rehearsal (the children are participating in the 3rd movement “Grant us Peace”)
- Sunday, Dec. 16th - sing in the Cantata at both services (meet at 9:10 a.m.)
- Monday, Dec. 24th - sing “Hodie” at the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service (note the earlier service time!) Please meet at 4:30 p.m. in the choir room.
- Sunday, Dec. 30th - NO REHEARSAL!



December 16 - Cantata "Love Came Down at Christmas" held during the 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services

December 23 - 9:30 a.m. Contemporary and 11:00 a.m. Traditional

December 24 - 5:00 p.m. Family Service and 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion

December 30 - Hymn Sing at both the 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services



PLEDGES, ENVELOPES, & LAST 2018 PAYMENT

Stewardship

Pledge Cards - Everyone can still turn in pledge cards. Extra pledge cards can be found in the Narthex near the sign-in sheets. You can put them in the offering plate or put them in the office in the envelope provided in Kathy Fore's mailbox.

Envelopes - If you did not indicate on a pledge card whether you want or don't want envelopes, please sign up on the form in the Narthex or contact Kathy Fore at Kathyfore82@gmail.com.

Contributions for 2018 must be turned in prior to December 30, 2018 by 12:00 p.m. noon to get credit for the 2018 tax year. Again, you may put a check in the offering plate or turn it in to the office.

Online Banking - People who do online banking need to ensure checks for January 2019 are not received and deposited on December 30th. Please double check the delivery date of your January payment. If necessary, go online and change them to no earlier than January 4, 2019.

KIRKWOOD SILVER

Congregational Care

KirkWood Silver

KirkWood Silver will celebrate the Advent Christmas season with A Christmas Dessert and Christmas Stories at the church on Thursday, December 13th, from 2:00-3:30 p.m. Bring a small plate of cookies, brownies, or other sweet or non-sweet treats to share and make our celebration the “sweetest!” Following dessert, we will hear several uplifting stories to help us experience the awe and spirit of the Christmas season. Our interim pastor, Charles Tucker, will be one of our story sharers!



Sign up in the Narthex beginning November 25th if you plan to attend this special Christmas fellowship event. Bring a friend or KW newcomer!

Mark your calendars now for a January 17th visit to the Mariners’ Museum followed by lunch at Harpoon Larry’s. Look for details closer to the time.

SPECIAL DATES

December 1 - Family Christmas Party

December 16 - Cantata Sunday (9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.)

December 21 - First day of winter

December 24 - Christmas Eve - 5:00 p.m. Family Service

11:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service

December 25 - Christmas Day (Church Office Closed)

December 26 - Church Office Closed

December 31 - New Year’s Eve (Church Office Closed)

January 1, 2019 - New Year’s Day (Church Office Closed)

January 21 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day



BLOOD DRIVE

Congregational Care



KirkWood's final 2018 Red Cross Blood Drive was held on Thursday, November 15th. We had 28 presenting donors and were able to collect 26 lifesaving pints of blood with one double reds and three deferrals (unable to give.) The weather was nasty so even though we did not make our goal of 34 pints, it was successful. Way to go Kirkwood! A huge thank you goes to all those who volunteered their time to work a shift, prepare food, or come out and donate. We could not do this valuable ministry without the help of all of the volunteers.

The dates for 2019 are as follows: **ALL THURSDAYS, FEBRUARY 21ST, MAY 23RD, AUGUST 22ND, and NOVEMBER 21ST.** Walk-ins are always welcome, but appointments are preferred.

HELP WANTED: If you are willing to help out serving food or in the registration process during the drive, please let either Elizabeth Nelson or Cathy Hudgins know. We are looking for a few more volunteers to be available to be called to work.





PROPERTY & FACILITIES

Property & Facilities

Thanks to an anonymous donation, P&F will be replacing three more air handler units the week of December 3rd. These three units are from the original construction and are starting to show their age and require a lot of maintenance. During this week there will be no heat in Charles' office, the music room, the nursery, the hallway, and half of the sanctuary. We hope this will not cause too many issues during this time.

Be on the look out! P&F has purchased a new Nativity set for the front circle of the church. The previous one was getting hard to assemble, and Mary and Joseph needed a face lift. It may already be set up by the time of this newsletter.

A special thanks goes out to all who helped P&F keep KirkWood running and looking good over the 2018 year. It takes a lot of people behind the scenes to keep the lights burning, fixing plumbing, repairing the AC units, weeding and planting new flowers, repairing and painting walls, fire alarm inspections, keeping lawn mowing equipment running, etc. The list is long, and we could not keep things going without a dedicated team and a lot of volunteers in the church. The P&F committee leaders, Murray and Kirk, would like to give a special thanks to our P&F team members: Janet and Jerry Deaton, Nate Nickerson, Roger Crone, Jim Birch, and Tom Briggs.

If you find anything needing repairs; faucets or toilets leaking, lights out, or areas needing spruced up, please notify the office so it can be passed on to the P&F committee and we can correct it.

Also, if you are interested in joining the P&F committee to help keep the church in good working order, please contact Murray Ritter or Kirk Reno. We meet the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the kitchen.

Read the Bible in One Year
Starting in 2019



READ SCRIPTURE

Spend time alone with God's Word

Spend quality time reading the Bible daily while learning how to read it with contextual videos from



Understand the Bible

Hand-illustrated Bible Project videos explain difficult concepts and themes "better than seminary" alongside scripture text. A brand-new Thematic reading plan constantly highlights the bigger picture, so you can always see the big picture in your reading.



Hint: It all points to Jesus.

Stay motivated

Track your progress of the entire bible that shows you where you've been and where you are going.

Reminders on your phone will ping you to help keep you on track.

To find out more

Go to

<https://www.readscripture.org/> or

Download in the app store or google play





WHICH VERSION OF THE BIBLE?

Christian Education

Our youth are being encouraged with incentives to bring their Bibles every Sunday for sermons and Sunday School so that they will take notes, highlight, and get personal with their own Word of God in hand. With the holidays approaching and gift ideas abounding, we discussed what version of the Bible should we be reading. There are so many to choose from, but what is really the best version of the Bible to study?

The answer is not as hard as you might think. The Holy Spirit is your best tool to understanding scripture, so regardless of the translation, as long as you're asking God for help when you open the pages, you're certain to find His voice speaking to you. However, that voice can be easier to identify if you're able to comprehend what you're reading.

APPS:

In a world where technology is at your fingertips, it should be no surprise that the Bible is too. There are several free Bible apps for your smart devices that allow you to view different translations or even have chapters read audibly to you. They allow highlighting and commenting features in these apps will save your notes and allow you to share scripture digitally at the click of a button.

Personally I use YouVersion which allows me also to pick study plans and do them with friends from my contact lists that also have the app. While this form of technology is extremely useful in day-to-day use and quick references, it is no substitute for your own personal hard copy Bible that you can tangibly touch, date, highlight, and take notes in. There's just something about having The Word that belongs to you in ink and paper glory.

How to Pick a Translation:

First, look for a version that is easy to read for you. If you love the poetic power in the King James Version and enjoy looking up the meaning behind words the English language has not used in the 400 years since it was first translated, then by all means! There is power and strength and accuracy in it's translation, but if you find it a chore to read, you're better off with a



more modern translation. Go to your local Bible store or even do a little sample reading online by clicking through the available versions on BibleGateway.com. Pick the one that speaks to you in the clearest and most understandable phrases; popular and accurate translations used are the NIV, NIRV, NLT or NKJV.

The Message Bible has an exciting and vibrant new way of interpreting scripture that will make you see the stories and settings in a brand new way, but be sure that you frequently compare it to a more literal translation for accuracy. My personal favorite is the Amplified version, which often helps to redefine commonly used terms in parenthesis right there in the story (grace, mercy, etc.) and additional scripture references right there in the text that mirror the same theme or thought or story line and even reveal where the New Testament is quoting straight from the Old Testament writings.

Extra Features:

Many Bibles come with features like commentary from scholars, specific pastors, and evangelists, red letters for Jesus' spoken words, maps, pictures, or short prayers. Think about whether or not you tend to enjoy having some guidance from others in commentary. Do you prefer to see Jesus' words in red or is that distracting? Do you care about geography, history, or culture clarification?

Many Bibles come with these options but in a variety of combinations. Some might find it helpful to have a concordance (an alphabetical list of words and their associated scriptures) so you can turn directly to passages pertaining to a word or subject (ex: baptism.) Lexicons might be included to help translate words exactly from their original Greek or Hebrew.

Binding can be a consideration also. Hardcover Bibles are useful for someone who takes their Bible on the go regularly and can stand up to the test of time and use better. They also are less floppy in Bible cases which have useful pockets for study tools, notebooks, and highlighters, but some prefer the look of their leather-bound or the cost efficiency of paperback. It's all a matter of preference.

And what about the Apocrypha? Although generally excluded from Protestant Bibles, these 14 books used to be interspersed throughout the Old Testament writings, and while considered secondary in importance to the Old Testament writings we have today, they were widely





embraced as good for reading, relevantly historical, and useful for personal edification. Have you read the whole Bible yet? If so, maybe check the Apocrypha out and ask the Holy Spirit what might be in those books for you.

The truth of the matter is that any translation at all is better than not reading your Bible. Pick it up. Fall in love with it. Find a way to make it something you turn to daily, and I promise that it will become your treasure. Meet God there every day.

Happy Bible Hunting!

Ashley Wenner

ENCHANTED FOREST UPDATE

Outreach

WOW! Thank you to everyone for an amazing end to our October season. The Enchanted Forest was a huge success! We had over 700 folks walk through the path.

Did you know it took over 60 people from planning, setting up, buying, decorating, dressing as characters, running games, taking photos, helping with parking, the bonfire, s'mores, cider, and crafts, our candy runners, and a clean-up crew to pull off this event?! The Outreach Committee could not have done it without you!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES

Missions

Thank you to all who contributed to KirkWood's Christmas Shoebox Ministry. A total of 89 shoeboxes were lovingly filled and donated to make a child's Christmas special. The shoeboxes were delivered Monday, November 19th to the local collection point and are on their way around the world! Thanks again for supporting KirkWood's missions ministry.





MISSIONS UPDATE

Missions

Africa

In January Elisabeth Kelly will be leading a team of college students into the high mountains in Africa where typical snowfall for the region is one meter in the winter. They have been asked to bring donations of winter jackets, tennis shoes, and socks for the people who live there. All sizes for children, women, and men are needed, with the exception of men's shoes sizes 11 and 12. If you are able to donate, please make sure items are in good condition as they want these gifts of love to last many years. Donations will be collected in the Narthex through December 23rd.

A primary need for this mission team is prayer. Please pray for their team to be united in the Holy Spirit, hidden from the enemy as they travel and minister in this area, that they bring light with them, and for the hearts of the people they meet to be open.

Romans 10:14-15 "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" Thank you KirkWood for sending what you can.

Some of the missionaries with children they will be serving this winter. →

