

KIRKWOOD KRONICLE

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

May 2020

A Letter From Our Pastor



Hello KirkWood!

As you probably know by now, KirkWood has entered the last stage of a journey you started way back in January of 2018. At the end of 2017, the Reverend Doctor Michael Condrey retired after 28 years as KirkWood's pastor. In March of 2018, I took on the role of interim pastor at KirkWood. We started together with several goals in mind. We wanted to get to know one another. We wanted to explore KirkWood's past, present, and future vision. We wanted to discern what God wants KirkWood to be and to do.

The main purpose behind those goals was to call a new pastor who would have the vision, talents, and skills to lead KirkWood into the next phase of your life together as part of Jesus' Church. By the grace of God, all those plans are coming together. You composed a powerful Mission Study Report. You developed a glorious vision for the future. Your Pastor Nominating Committee has even identified the person God has called to lead you forward.

It has been an awesome privilege to have been on this journey with you. God has blessed our time together in ways we could have never imagined. Now, it is time for us to move into the next chapter of our ministries. Even though our time together is coming to an end, we can be confident that we will always be working together in the One Body of Christ, the Church.

I will always remember the wonderful time we had together, and I will continue to pray that God will bless you in everything that you undertake.

In Christ,
Charles



KirkWood Presbyterian Church

1209 Hampton Highway

Yorktown, VA 23693

Phone: 757-766-0343 Fax: 757-766-0962

Email: office@kirkwoodpcusa.org

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

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

Sunday School: 8:30 a.m. (adult), 9:30 a.m. (adult), 11:00 a.m.
(preschool - adult), 3:00 p.m. (adults of all ages)



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WEEKLY READINGS & SERMON TITLES

May 3 - Isaiah 40:6-11 & John 10:1-10

Sermon Title: LIFE IN ABUNDANCE

May 10 - Youth Sunday

May 17 - Deuteronomy 10:12-15 & Acts 17:22-31

Sermon Title: LORD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH

May 24 - Deuteronomy 6:1-3 & John 17:1-11

Sermon Title: KNOW GOD, KNOW JESUS

May 31 - (TO BE DETERMINED)

SPECIAL DATES

May 7 - National Day of Prayer

May 10 - Mother's Day

May 16 - Armed Forces Day

May 21 - Ascension Day

May 25 - Memorial Day

May 31 - Pentecost

Graduates

The office needs your help. If you are a senior in high school or college and will be graduating this spring, or you have a child who meets this criteria, please contact the office by May 18th so they may be featured in the June Kronicle. We would also like to recognize the high school graduates during worship on June 7th. Please contact Albertina at (757) 766-0343 or by email at office@kirkwoodpcusa.org with the name of the student, the school from which they will be graduating, the course of study (major/minor) if applicable/known, and future plans.





WORSHIP

Worship

Over the past month and a half, Christians throughout America and the world have had our understanding of worship greatly expanded. We have been unable to meet as a congregation but have still found ways to bring glory to God. Some churches have gone to live-streaming a full service on various platforms. Some have gone to “drive-in church.” Others have just provided an audio sermon. Still others have provided only resources to members. KirkWood has largely relied on pre-recorded video with links in the bulletin to songs already available on YouTube. I hope that you have been able to participate in these each Sunday and even share them with family and friends. The best part of putting the service online is that we have been able to reach people who otherwise would not have made it to the service.

We do not know when the conditions will be right to resume services. We (the Worship Committee and Session) are closely listening to guidance from health and government officials, trying to identify at what point the risk will be low enough that we can meet. This could be in several weeks; it could be in a few months. Either way, know that we are already starting to think about how best to resume worship that minimizes the health risk without sacrificing the culture and components of worship that make KirkWood the loving and caring family that it is.

Until such time as we are able to resume corporate worship, there are some things that you can do. Each Sunday, an online version of the service is posted to the KirkWood website. Take the time to watch this and participate with the guidance and resources provided in the online bulletin. Through the sermons page of the web site, there is also audio recordings of nearly every sermon going back five years, so if you are craving more teaching, these are always available. Also, please feel free to share the online service to friends and family, through email, social media, or even word of mouth. Lastly, and most importantly, pray. We will have some big choices coming up in how and when we resume in-person worship. Pray that God will provide abundant wisdom to those making these decisions.

- Jim Mershon



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Christian Education

A note from my heart to yours:

I have received a requested leave of absence from my Children's Ministry position until August. This allows me to focus on the needs at home during this unprecedented time. I will remain connected to the staff and families and offer support as able.

KirkWood families have my heart and I think about the littles so much. I am going to give away all my secrets with the following links, but if you are looking for ways to explain the scripture to your family, then look at <http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.com/> and <http://storypath.upsem.edu/lectionary-links/lectionary-links-revised-common-lectionary/>.

You also don't have to be a Pinterest pro to follow along with pictures of fun Mother's Day ideas or Pentecost plans. For families of any age, consider the following free Nature Prayer Walk from Children's Ministry Deals: <https://www.childrens-ministry-deals.com/products/prayer-nature-walk>.

Blessings and health to you and yours,

Jeannine

WORSHIP MUSIC

Worship

KirkWood Bell Choir

Since our KirkWood Bell Choir is on "vacation", we thought you might enjoy this stunning bell ensemble performance:

[Hallelujah Chorus played by 4 handbell ringers](#)





WORSHIP MUSIC

Worship

Joyful Noise

Like Jonah, these days we probably feel as if we are in the belly of the whale (an unfamiliar place.) We miss coming to Sunday rehearsals and singing praises to God. But there is good news coming...

We didn't want all our hard work to go to waste, and we just can't wait until spring 2021 to share our musical with the congregation, so our spring musical, "Oh, Jonah" will be presented in the fall (probably October.) Stay tuned for more information!

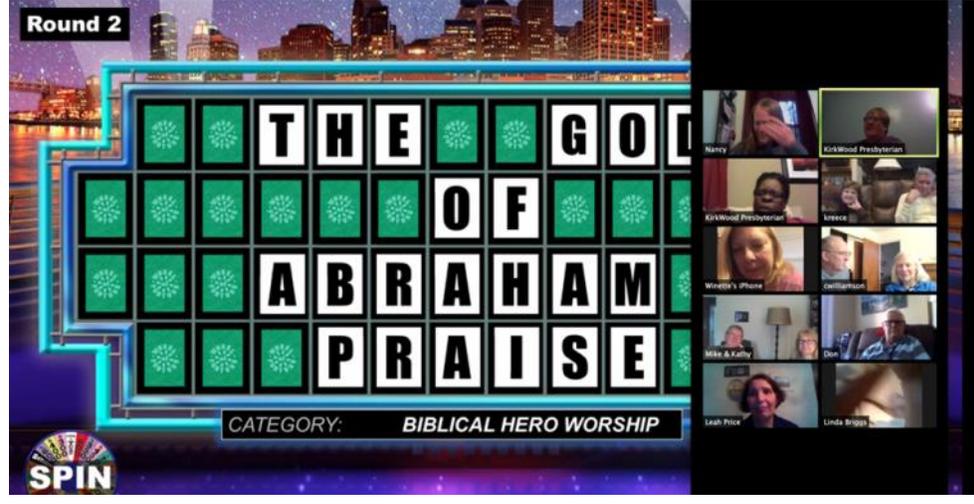
If you can't wait to see it, you can watch the musical by clicking on this link (you should fast-forward to 9 minutes into the video) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i2oFy7QhwOA>.



Worship Choir

For the last month, our KirkWood Worship Choir has been meeting each Wednesday night for "rehearsal." We meet via Zoom (thanks to our emcee, Christine Pregler for making this possible.) It is a chance for our group to stay in touch, share prayer concerns, and have some sharing time.

Each week we also play some type of game. We have played "name that tune, name that text and choir mad libs." This past week we played "Wheel of Fortune" - the Hymnal edition. Next week we will play "guess who." Choir members have submitted toddler and high school photos of themselves, and we will have some fun putting names with the photos.





HYMN-SPIRATION

Worship

Now Thank We All our God (listen to this recording)

For modern American Protestant churchgoers, the hymn “Now Thank We All our God” likely conjures up an image of a congregation singing in unison, a pipe organ blasting away (or perhaps Tina at the piano), and a church full of people thinking about the approaching feast of stuffed turkey with cranberry sauce.

In order to understand where this hymn came from, I would like to offer a very different image: a minister and his family sing this hymn before dinner to thank God for the scraps of food they have on the table in their meager home in a desolate refugee city that is afflicted with famine and disease and war.

Martin Rinckart (1586-1649) was an accomplished musician who spent most of his career as a musician and archdeacon in the city of Eilenburg (eastern Germany.) The greater part of Rinckart’s professional life was passed amid the horrors of the Thirty Years War. Eilenburg, being a walled town, became a refuge for fugitives from all around, and being so overcrowded, suffered from pestilence and famine.

During the great pestilence of 1637, the Superintendent went away for a change of air and couldn’t be persuaded to return; and on August 7th, Rinckart had to officiate at the funerals of two of the town clergy.

Rinckart thus for some time was the only clergyman in the place and often read the funeral service over some 40-50 persons a day (in all over 4,480 people.)

At last the refugees had to be buried in trenches without service, and during the whole epidemic, some 8,000 persons died including his wife.

In the midst of these horrors, it’s difficult to imagine maintaining faith and praising God, and yet, that’s exactly what Rinckart did.



Sometime in the next twenty years, he wrote the hymn, “Now Thank We All our God,” originally meant to be a prayer said before meals. Rinkart could recognize that our God is faithful, and even when the world looks bleak, God is “bounteous” and full of blessings, if only we look for them.

Blessing as seemingly small as a dinner meal or as large as the end of a brutal war and unnecessary bloodshed are all reasons to lift up our thanks to God, with our hearts, our hands and our voices.

The theme is very clear and straightforward. It’s an exhortation to us, to one another, to thank our God with everything we are—with our heart, with our hands, with our voices.

Choir Room Walls

Our choir room has had a makeover of sorts. Thanks to our fabulous KirkWood remodeling team headed by Kirk Reno, we now have solid walls (painted a lovely shade of light blue-gray-green) and a new white board.

We also rearranged the room to make more space for our children’s choir and worship choir rehearsals. Special thanks to Nancy Ridsen, our tireless choir librarian!

We look forward to getting back to work in our new, improved space.



NO, I DIDN'T CUT IT WRONG,
YOU'RE HOLDING IT UPSIDE DOWN.



BLOOD DRIVE & KIRKWOOD SILVER

Congregational Care

The next Kirkwood Blood Drive is scheduled for **THURSDAY, May 21st** from 2:00-7:00 p.m. **DUE TO THE CURRENT RESTRICTIONS DURING THIS TIME, WE WILL BE HOLDING THIS DRIVE AT THE VICTORY YMCA ACROSS THE STREET.** Also, due to the current distance and number of people allowed to congregate together, there will be fewer appointments available, so making your appointments ahead of time is highly recommended. The Red Cross will be using a system where one representative will be assigned to one donor from registration, history and donation, and exercising the highest protocols for safety and hygiene dictated by the CDC and the Red Cross. In the interest of maintaining the highest hygiene standards, we will not be serving a meal at this drive. There will be snacks provided by the Red Cross as always.

Donors can schedule their appointments by going online to www.redcrossblood.org; sponsor code "KirkwoodPC." If you would like to save yourself some time on drive day, you can access the **RAPIDPASS**. RAPIDPASS lets you do the prescreen process from your phone or computer and can save you as much as 15-20 minutes when you get to the drive. The Red Cross will send a link to your email the day of the drive. Contact Cathy Hudgins at hudgepudge@aol.com or (757) 869-2645, if you have any questions or concerns about this drive. There is an urgent need for all types of blood now and always. Please prayerfully consider coming out and donating. The rest of the 2020 dates are as follows: **August 20th and November 19th**. Please mark your calendars.

KirkWood Silver

Because of the conditions we are experiencing, KirkWood Silver will not have a get together in May. It will be so wonderful when we can rally and be together again. Until then, prayers are with you for everyone to be well.

The KirkWood Silver outing to see "Sister Act" on June 6th will not be able to happen because we will still be under the governor's order to "shelter" and the Williamsburg Players have not been able to rehearse. When we know if and when the play will be rescheduled, we will contact each of you who reserved tickets and ask if you want to attend on the new date or get a refund. In the meantime, please keep in touch with one another!



STEWARDSHIP & MISSIONS

Stewardship

Another Way to Give to KirkWood

Did you know you can contribute directly to KirkWood from your traditional or inherited IRA?

A Qualified Charitable Donation (QCD) allows individuals who are at least age 70½ (as of this writing) to direct all or part of an IRA distribution directly to KirkWood. You can request a distribution, up to \$100,000, from your IRA made payable to KirkWood without any additional tax consequences. Of course, when you contribute directly from your IRA to KirkWood, you cannot take a charitable donation for the QCD, but for many it could provide a better tax benefit.

QCDs require no special reporting by your IRA custodian; you will receive an IRS Form 1099-R for the distribution. You will need to provide this form to your tax advisor during tax preparation time. If you have already taken your Required Minimum Distribution for this calendar year, the amount cannot be rolled back into your IRA because the IRS considers the first dollars out of your IRA as your RMD and you cannot rollover an RMD. A conversation with your investment professional may be helpful in determining what strategy works best in your financial situation.

Food Drive Partnership with Scout Troop #54 and Thrive Peninsula

This food drive originated prior to the onset of COVID-19 and the temporary closure of the church building. Scout Troop #54 has suspended the event at this time; donations received will be forwarded to Thrive Peninsula as originally scheduled.



KIRKWOOD YOUTH GROUP

Children's Ministry

Of course, in light of social distancing, our youth group has been meeting in a mix of Zoom meetings for Sunday School hour, YouTube lessons they can watch on their own time, and a few ding-dong-ditched goodie bags and homemade cookies from the Kelly's.

The youth are currently working on ways to remotely help assemble the Youth Sunday message for May 10th on Mothers' day.

Among some of our more regular communications via text messages are updates on the youth room mascots. We have three currently: Stanley the cow, The Gorilla, and The Donkey who is Stanley's child. We thought the rest of our congregation might enjoy seeing what they have been up to in quarantine.





THE CHOSEN

Christian Education

During this time of disrupted patterns of life, your KirkWood Christian Education friends would like to make some recommendations that might be fresh and meaningful ways to engage in the life of Christ either as individuals or together as family units.

We encourage the online connections of some existing classes, networks, and small groups. Feel free to use available media in new and creative ways to both foster and share life together in Christ. Look for opportunities to reach toward others in new ways

One particular recommendation is to consider viewing “The Chosen,” which is available via a variety of channels. This cinematic series is a new, well-done depiction of the life of Jesus engaging with real people – no cardboard characters here. It is a crowd-funded production with wide international involvement.

See the introduction trailer: <https://youtu.be/K1-FoFj8Jbo>

2020 Holy week free live streams with skipable introductory funding description.

Episode 1: I have called you by name <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=craeyJdrCsE>

Episode 2: Shabbat

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zEc2zgJtp-4>

Episode 3: Jesus loves the little children

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0xMfU-YY3Eo>

All Episodes are accessible via the app: <https://thechosen.tv/app> or your normal app store. Search for “The Chosen.” Also, there is at least one set of the Season 1 DVD’s available for circulation among KirkWood folks.

Tune in and be freshly shocked and chosen by Jesus. Consider watching an episode or two together as a family. Rumor is it’s habit-forming.