

KIRKWOOD KRONICLE

A Christian Community Growing Together, Knowing, Loving, and Serving Christ, July 2020
to make Him known to all.

A Letter From Planning and Leadership Development (PLD)

Hello KirkWood,

I hope this Kronicle edition finds you, your family, and loved ones healthy and faring well during these dynamic times. They certainly are changing here at KirkWood. We are in a transition time, a “tween period” if you will, between Pastor Tucker’s departure and Pastor Shearer’s arrival coupled with safely re-opening the church. On June 21st we held a farewell parade at KirkWood for Pastor Tucker with almost 50 cars, and at least double that for spirited occupants, passing cheers and best wishes as Charles and Melissa displayed posters and exchanged farewells. It was a nice way to make the best of the current situation in these times.

These times are new, evolving, but not uncharted! Our new pastor, Pastor Chris Shearer and his family, will be with us in early-August. We have been through a similar period, before Charles arrived as our interim pastor, where we navigated forward with God’s hand on this church. Session has been working steadily behind the scenes. We have a solid pastor pulpit supply set up as we continue towards early-August and we will continue the recorded worship services as before. Additionally, other Elders and committees are actively reviewing the plans to safely re-open KirkWood in the future. The recent online participation survey many of you responded to will better inform our efforts. It is an active and steady process right now, with many moving parts, new roles, new opportunities, but it is definitely moving forward. Session is coordinating a master plan that includes details from the Worship committee on putting action to ideas for social distance seating, people flow, new usher procedures and teams; from

Property and Facilities for pre- and post-service cleaning plans and teams, sanitizer stations, and entry/exit routes; from Technology for continuing recorded services and website availability, and Admin for church operating hours and other details.



KirkWood Presbyterian Church

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Email: office@kirkwoodpcusa.org

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

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

Sunday School: 10:00 a.m. via Zoom (contact church office for link)





To support this, Pastor Shearer has passed along some of his current church’s re-opening lessons learned after two weeks open and Session has had the opportunity to review other churches’ opening processes and PCUSA guidance, coupled with the CDC and Virginia state guidance. In the next couple of weeks, we hope to have a target date to safely open KirkWood for Sunday worship. We intend to communicate early and often. Re-opening KirkWood is complex and evolving. We will do our best to ensure everyone has the information to make their own personal decision regarding safely returning to church, and we intend to communicate in as many ways as possible to ensure everyone is in the loop, aware, and ready to go. There will be more to follow as it all firms up. And a final thought - It is now officially summer; get out and enjoy God’s creation!

Nate Nickerson

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PULPIT SUPPLY

July 5 - Guest Preacher - Vernon Murray

July 12 - Guest Preacher - Chaplain James Hoy

July 19 - Guest Preacher - Helen Byrd

July 26 - Guest Preacher - Vernon Murray

SPECIAL DATES

July 4 - Independence Day



CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY

Planning and Leadership Development

We thank you for the over 130 responses and insightful comments. This will assist Session in our re-opening planning. We are still reviewing the data but the initial look is approximately 50% of previous attendees would return at this time under the current situation/environment.

We have also had about half the survey responses include a comment in the question four comment section. To summarize those comments, there are two themes that seem prevalent. One is a strong desire to return to corporate worship and the other is a concern for safety. Some are hesitant to return initially and want to delay doing so for some period. There is a need for assurance that what we do is done as safely as they hope it will be done.

Of course, some of the uncertainty in returning to church is knowing things will be different but not knowing exactly how different it will be. Our goal is to communicate what is happening, when and what to expect when we return, with enough lead time that all can be aware, informed and ready for the new path forward, for these times. Thanks again for your responses and support as we chart the way ahead.

KYG

Christian Education

KYG has been meeting outdoors for Sunday school and outdoor activities once every Sunday. We would like to say a very grateful THANK YOU to all of the wonderful members who took the time to drive by and honk, encourage, love on, and pass out cards to our graduating seniors, Olivia and Katy. We greatly look forward to meeting together in person, hopefully before they depart for their college dorms!

Among water balloon fights and snacks, we spend the meat of our time together in Wee KirkWood talking about Jesus. We greatly look forward to the opportunity to gather for worship again!





WORSHIP

Worship

The Worship Committee is pleased to say that it has been working with other KirkWood committees to put together a plan to resume in-person worship. We are working to ensure we have a service that enables and encourages us to worship God, maintains the culture that is KirkWood, and complies with government regulations and guidance. When we do resume, we want to be sure that you are aware that your decision to attend is yours. If you feel the risk is too great, by all means, continue to worship through our digital resources at home. You will still be able to view the service on YouTube and KirkWood’s website. In preparation for this, the virtual service will move to a live broadcast on July 12th. We will be starting the broadcast shortly before the service at 9:20 a.m. With it, you can worship live on your device, or you can watch later as the video will be available for viewing shortly after the service starts.

For those of you who determine it is safe enough to return when we do have in-person worship, you will notice some changes in the worship service to reduce risk. The service will mimic what has been on the website for the past few weeks. Among the biggest changes, we have regrettably determined it best to remove congregational singing, as this expels a large amount of particles that could contain the virus, some of which will get through a mask. We have removed all items that are passed, such as friendship pads and the offering plate. Also, we ask that you move any socialization to outside the church, so that those who are cleaning can have more time to do so. Lastly, to enable broadcasting, there are cameras in the sanctuary, and if you do not wish to be on camera, we will have seats identified that will remain out of camera range.

We look forward to continuing to facilitate worship at KirkWood, whether that is at home or in person. We will continue to learn, adapt, and grow with God’s guidance.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Christian Education

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

Staycation Bible School – for elementary-aged children

- Feet that follow: **“Awesome are YOUR feet! They carry God’s love wherever you go!”**
- Five flexible days of activities for parents and families to use anytime this summer
- Lessons, arts & crafts, car tunes
- [Staycation Bible School 2020 Introduction](#)
- [Staycation Bible School 2020 Full](#)

The Chosen

Beginning July 5th, you can join a shared *Zoom* viewing and discussion each Sunday morning of an episode from Season 1 of **The Chosen**. The *Zoom* meeting will begin at **10:00 a.m.** until corporate worship resumes, after that we will shift to another agreeable time. Contact Charlie Reece or Christine Pregler for connection information.

Everyone is welcome to enjoy this remarkable crowd-funded production. Tune in and be freshly shocked, and chosen, by Jesus and his friends like you.

All episodes are accessible via the app: <https://thechosen.tv/app> .

If you are not able to join the *Zoom* gathering or use the app, but would like a DVD version for home use, contact Charlie at dna-srf@verizon.net.

KirkWood CE web page

Check out the CE webpage on the KirkWood site for updates and resources for your encouragement and challenge walking with Jesus. <https://kirkwoodpcusa.org/christian-education/>



BLOOD DRIVE & LINUS GROUP

Congregational Care

KirkWood Blood Drive

The next KirkWood blood drive is scheduled for **Thursday, August 20th**, from 2:00-7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. As of the Kronicle publishing date, and due to the current Covid-19 restrictions, we still do not know if we will be able to hold the drive in the church building. The Red Cross is working with us to find alternatives, if we are unable to host the drive on our property. Please watch the bulletin and the church website for updates. 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 mobile device 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. If you have questions or would like to inquire as to how you can help at upcoming drives, please contact Cathy Hudgins at (757) 869-2645 or hudgepudge@aol.com. There is an urgent need for all types of blood now and always. Please prayerfully consider coming and donating this lifesaving need. The final drive of 2020 is scheduled for **November 19th**.

Linus Group

Did you know that KirkWood has a group that meets weekly on Wednesday mornings and makes blankets to donate to a national organization known as Project Linus? We call ourselves the Linus Group! Think of the cartoon character Linus holding his "blankie." This year we donated 77 lovingly made blankets in the name of KirkWood. Some knitted, some crocheted, and some quilted.

Let us tell you a little about the national Project Linus effort. Its mission includes helping children from birth to teen years by providing "...love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, victimized, or otherwise in need through the gifts of new, hand-made blankets and afghans, lovingly created by volunteer 'blanketeers'." Nationally 8,018,901 blankets have been collected and delivered since its beginning in 1995. There is a chapter leader in VA Beach who collects our blankets once a year and delivers them to areas of need in the region.



If you are looking for a group filled with fun-loving and caring people, sharing their prayers and talents to benefit children and families, please consider the Linus Group. If you don't knit or crochet but want to learn, this is a group for you, also! We have very willing instructors! For more information the church office can connect you with one of the members of the Linus Group.



KIRKWOOD SILVER

Congregational Care

Hello there, fellow KirkWood Silver folks! I sure hope you're hanging in there through this prolonged coronavirus pandemic! Jim and I are still staying put most of the time. We have been getting outside to walk in our neighborhood most of the pleasant days, but now that summer has arrived and is taking her role seriously, we are not wanting to do as much of that – unless it cools off enough after supper.

I'm curious to know how you're faring. I'm especially curious to know how long your hair has grown! I usually get mine cut every five weeks. I'm not tripping over it yet, but I can almost put it into a ponytail!

As you've probably guessed, KWS does not have anything planned at this point. It's anybody's guess as to when we can do something together. If any of you have a suggestion for something that would be safe and fun, please let me know, or anyone else on the planning team: the Gilberts, Griffins, Elizabeth Nelson, Ann Effler, or Norene Lovdahl. It would probably have to be an outdoor event and probably not be able to happen until September.

Stay well and find new things to do. At this point, virtual VBS sounds inviting! :)

Wanda Birch



MISSION

Mission

Our 4th food collection (drop-off) event at KirkWood is happening on Saturday, July 11, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Please ‘drive-by’ with non-perishables or monetary donations for St. Luke’s Food Pantry and the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank. The Mission Committee is planning to continue these events to help meet the needs in our community, both while we are not meeting weekly to receive St. Luke’s food donations, and also because so many people are still out of work. Every bag of food and monetary donation will help to feed someone in our area who is hungry. Thank you for your continued support.

Thank You, KirkWood! At our 3rd food collection event on Saturday June 6th we collected 140 bags of non-perishable food. A total of \$2,190 was donated which came to \$1,360 for Virginia Peninsula Foodbank and \$830 for St. Luke’s Food Pantry. Thanks again to our volunteers, which included this month two Troop #54 scouts Connor and Evan.

Meals for Vets

KirkWood provides meals for two houses of five men who are military veterans transitioning from homelessness. If you are able to help provide meals for this ministry on Mondays or Thursdays, you can call Gloria Griffin at (757) 719-0995 or (757) 223-4104 or Zora Parker at (757) 833-6406 or (757) 869-3784, or sign-up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090849a5a62ea0f58-meals>. Please call Gloria for Monday delivery or Zora for Thursday delivery, and they will arrange pickup.



HYMNSPIRATION

Worship



Have you ever decided to do something and then changed your mind at the last minute because you are being led by God in your heart?

Well, that is what happened to the author of the hymn “Blest be the Tie that Binds.” John Fawcett was the pastor at a tiny church in Wainsgate (in Yorkshire, England.) The job didn’t pay much at all, and the pay often arrived in the form of potatoes!

Needing a more lucrative position to feed his growing family, he applied and was accepted for a job at a much larger church in London.

As they were doing the final packing, his wife mentioned that she had grown so close to the people in the congregation that she didn’t think she could leave. Her husband was feeling the same way, and so they unpacked the wagon and stayed on (for 54 years.)

The following Sunday, Fawcett preached from Luke 12:15, “A man’s life consists not in the abundance of the things he possesses.” He closed the sermon by reading this new song, “Blest be the tie that binds”.

Last week at KirkWood, we said goodbye to our dear Charles and Melissa Tucker. And now we are anticipating the arrival of our new Pastor, Chris Shearer. We haven’t had the pleasure of meeting him, yet he has been sent to us to co-create the next chapter in the history of KirkWood.

We look forward to getting to know Chris and his family and creating the “ties that bind.”



FAITHRAISING, NOT FUNDRAISING¹

Stewardship

In the minds of many Presbyterians, the concept of stewardship is linked to the church's fall fundraising campaign to support the budget. At KirkWood, this multi-week drive culminates in "Pledge Sunday," when we dedicate our pledges to God's work through KirkWood. Some people even may choose to skip church during pledge season with thoughts like, "I don't want to listen to sermons about money."

It's unfortunate that money has become such a negative word in the minds of some people of faith. Money is, after all, a profoundly spiritual issue in that what we do with our money and possessions matters to God. The stewardship of money and possessions is a theological concept deeply rooted in Scripture. The Bible describes all the ways God has acted on our behalf and all that God has given to the world. In short, it all belongs to God and it's by God's grace that it's given to us. 1 Peter 4:10 says, "Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." God has given each of us a variety of spiritual and material gifts. Note that because they are "gifts," doesn't mean they now belong to us. God does not transfer ownership but rather entrusts them to our care, meaning the question is not what do we want to do with these abundant gifts, but what does God want us to do with them? Clearly, God wants us to practice good stewardship.

Merriam-Webster defines "stewardship" as "the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care." This is where faithful discipleship comes in. As disciples, we are accountable to God and we are responsible to care for, wisely manage, and use God's gifts in support of others and all creation. In our giving, we participate in God's gracious love for the world and become the hands and feet of Christ to our neighbors.

Stewardship and our KirkWood mission are intimately connected. As people of faith, we want to be part of a church that is making a difference. KirkWood's need for money gives you the opportunity to put your resources at the disposal of the kingdom of God and to grow in faith. Rather than looking at pledging and tithing as "fundraising," look at them as "faithraising." What we do with our money and possessions impacts our faith and our life together in God's kingdom.

¹ Based on the article "Faithraising, not fundraising," by Rev. Rhonda Kruse, Presbyterians Today, July/August 2019