

# KirkWood Kronicle

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

July 2023



KirkWood Family,

“We need to keep growing as a church.”

“We need to reach more young families.”

I hear phrases like those two more than a little bit around KirkWood and in its committee meetings. They can be a plea, pressure, or even pessimism, depending on who utters them.

They are good statements. The second one especially is worth careful consideration, and after that, a plan of action. (The first is, well, a little too consumeristic...church isn't a commodity, our congregants aren't our market share, the chief end of human beings is to glorify and enjoy God, not see our budget and attendance increase yearly.)

But they are not the most important questions.

The daily devotional from The United Church of Christ on the date of this writing (July 30) two years ago reminds us what the most consequential questions for a church might be. May its wisdom keep us grounded, reduce any anxiety we might feel, and direct us into a future that's worthy of our high calling in Christ. Please find it on the next page.

Warmly,  
Pastor Chris



**KirkWood Presbyterian Church**

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**Worship:** Sundays, 9:30 am, in person and broadcast live via KirkWood's home page and our YouTube channel. On-demand replays are available on YouTube.

**Sunday School:** out of session for the summer



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**August 3** – KirkWood Silver goes to Bean's Ice Cream

**August 5** – Brunch at the Fort at 11am

**August 6** - Food Pantry Collection

**August 9** – Furniture Moving at 9:30am

**August 13** – H.O.P.E. Offering

**August 17** – Red Cross Blood Drive 2-7pm

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## "The Bible's Church Growth Plan"

Jennifer Brownell

*Meanwhile the church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was built up. Living in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers. – Acts 9:31 (NRSV)*

You probably don't ever have these conversations where you are (cough, cough), but the church people I hang out with spend a fair amount of time thinking, reading, and talking about plans or programs designed to get the church to grow. Screens or no screens. Small groups or leadership training. One kind of music or another kind. And whatever the attractive program or plan is, it must lure the elusive "young family," seldom seen in the wild and not easily captured.

What if church growth, though, was less about a plan or a program and more about an orientation, an attitude, a way of being?



What if the most attractive feature of your church to young families (and old singles and all the configurations of humanity in between) was that you had the kind of true peace that confronted conflict in a healthy, unafraid way?

What if the most appealing growth plan was a commitment to faith so unabashedly reverent that it looked something like awe?

What if the best church growth program of all was a community of people giving and receiving the kind of comfort that can only be inspired by the Holy Spirit?

I mean, I don't know if it would work. But if your church is anything like mine, you've tried everything else. Maybe the plan we've been seeking has been with us all along, hidden in plain sight right here in the thirty-first verse of the ninth book of Acts."

## Ongoing Missions

**Monthly Food Drive:** We collect non-perishable foods and monies to support St. Luke's pantry the first Sunday of every month.

**Monthly Offering—"Helping Other People Eat":** We collect the **H.O.P.E.** offering the second Sunday of every month. Funds are divided between Youth Challenge, Mid-Atlantic Teen Challenge, Menchville House, and our sister church, CPK Mikondo, for their Feeding Program in Congo.





# Communication Update

## Outreach

Over the years, KirkWood has continued to increase the use of technology to facilitate better communications among our congregation. From amplified microphones for the sermon, to amplified music during our services, to projected slides and video during services and meetings, to broadcasting services on the internet via YouTube. And for communications during the week, besides printed material (bulletins and flyers) we've gone from telephone calls to emails and Facebook posts. Now we are introducing texting as a medium for communication.

We are not doing away with phone calls or emails, we are supplementing them. And we don't anticipate flooding your cell phone with texts, just those to keep you informed of important events or situations. We anticipate that it will be used to welcome new visitors (via YouTube or in-person) and invite them to continue to join us. We may use it to notify everyone of special circumstances involving worship services or other events (e.g., "Services canceled due to snowstorm"). Committee chairs or other leaders can use it to contact their committees or groups. Members are able to respond to these texts as soon as desired for additional information. (Replies are only sent to the person who sent the original text, not to everyone in the group.)

Obviously, this will only be available for people with cell phones. We solicit you to "opt-in" to this new platform by either:

(1) Texting "connect" to 757-772-0209, or Scanning the QR code to the right.



(2) "You will receive text messages from KirkWood Presbyterian. Message & data rates may apply. Messages frequency varies. Reply STOP to stop, HELP for help.

(3) Respond to the text you receive, which will ask for your name and email address. We will not unilaterally add you to our list of subscribers as we want to respect your privacy. You must do this yourself through the opt-in process.



# Congregational Care Round-up

## Congregational Care

**KirkWood Goes Boating!** Because of the extreme heat in late July, our boating outing scheduled for the 29<sup>th</sup> is being postponed until a date to be announced, probably in the fall. Stay tuned for updates.

**Annual Picnic:** Our annual picnic will be held on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, after the worship service. Hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks will be provided. Plan to bring your favorite side dish or dessert and join the fun! Sign-ups will be available on-line, and in the narthex, beginning in mid-September.

**They're B-a-a-ck (well, almost).** KirkWood Silver and Dining Partners will formally resume in September. Stay tuned for details Cindy Williamson about Dining Partners and in this issue of the Kronicle from Wanda Birch about KirkWood Silver.

**Other Upcoming Events:** Our Veteran's Day Military Appreciation event is on Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>. If there is an event or activity you'd like us to take on, please let us know!

Unless otherwise noted, the point of contact for these items/events is Lew Goodman.



**"...so that  
they may be  
one..."**

**John 17:11**





# KirkWood Silver

## Congregational Care

KirkWood Silver, a fellowship ministry for the "senior" folks of KirkWood, meets on the third Thursday of each month to keep our bonds of friendship strong, to learn more about daily living as Christ's followers, and have fun in one another's company. All seniors are encouraged to join the fellowship and to invite newcomers to be a part of this vibrant group! We, the planning team, hope you are having an enjoyable summer and are eager for KWS to get back into gear in September!

We have just added a **special event** to our activities for the fall!!

We have a block of 20 tickets for the Williamsburg Players' performance of "Brighton Beach Memoirs" on Saturday, September 16th! The van will be going and will leave at 12:45 from the church. If you're driving yourself, please be at the theater by 1:40 to get seat assignments. The cost is \$17.00. (Yes, price increase!) Pay Gloria Griffin by cash or check to make your reservation.

To get us off to another great year, we are planning a luncheon of pizza and cookies followed by a Virtual Tour of The Holy Land, presented by some of the travelers who were blessed to make that trip in June. This will be an expanded version of the slide show we saw during worship in July. We will also have comments and commentary from some of those who participated in this awesome travel experience. The date for this KWS event is Thursday, September 21, and the time to gather is 11:30. The cost for the pizza will be under \$5.00. Please let us know if you plan to attend by signing up in the Narthex beginning September 3. Have questions? Call or email Wanda Birch at 757-868-8651 ([wandjbirch@verizon.net](mailto:wandjbirch@verizon.net)).

- October 19 - Party on the Lawn - a boxed lunch and lawn games event!
- November 16 - Lunch out at Jimmy da Greek's
- December ? - something Christmassy! to be confirmed later
- January 18 - lunch and "The Reluctant Convert" - a movie about the conversion of C. S. Lewis



# Blood Drive Update, Volunteers Needed

## Mission

### Follow the Path to Help with Our Next Blood Drive August 17 from 2-7 pm

Last Blood Drive for 2023  
is on November 16

Prayerfully  
consider  
participating

Volunteer to help  
with registration or  
the canteen by  
contacting Cathy  
Hudgins.

Donate food, dessert  
or financially to the  
canteen "Taco Bar"  
by contacting Donna  
Craig.

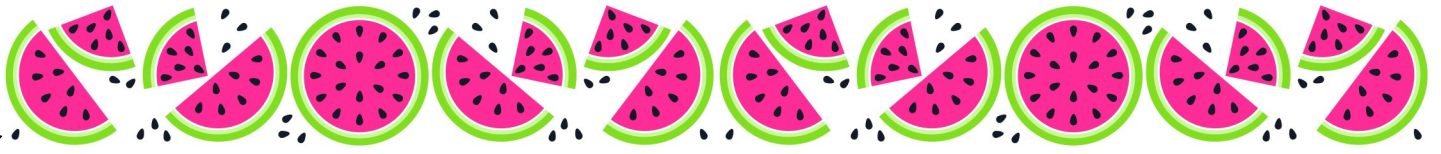
Schedule your donation time  
online at  
[www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org).  
Sponsor Code: KirkwoodPC  
contact Cathy Hudgins if you  
need help.

Day of: You will receive an  
email link to complete  
RAPIDPASS online & save  
time registering.

Reach Cathy or Donna by clicking on their  
name above or at:

Cathy Hudgins - [hudgepudge@aol.com](mailto:hudgepudge@aol.com)  
(757)869-2645

Donna Craig - [donnacraig029@gmail.com](mailto:donnacraig029@gmail.com)



# Linus Ministry Update

## Mission

Recently, members and friends of the Kirkwood Linus Group collected donations for the Project Linus. Project Linus provides handmade items to children 0-18 in the United States who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need.

On July 25, 2023 the Kirkwood Linus Group donated 79 items, including 3 quilts, 1 layette, and blankets to the local representative of Project Linus.

The Kirkwood Linus Group meets Wednesday mornings at 10:30 to share knitting and crocheting time together. Come join us!!







# Little Free Food Pantry

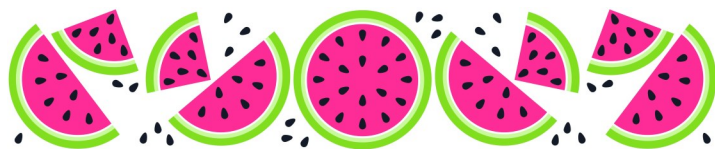
## Mission

We are happy to report KirkWood's Little Free Food Pantry has become quite successful in the surrounding community and is most assuredly meeting a need, especially in these summer months with schools and school lunch programs closed or on hiatus. We have a regular stream of visitors throughout the week! We are so happy that KirkWood's food ministry continues to bless others.

We regularly monitor the pantry supply and integrity and have found that the items being used more regularly are canned meats such as tuna and chicken, boxed dry cereals, boxed dinners such as Hamburger/Tuna Helper, canned ravioli/spaghetti O's, peanut butter, and pasta/pasta sauces. Thank you to everyone who donates supplies or makes monetary donations towards the pantry. Please continue to place your items directly in the pantry; however, if it appears well-supplied, we ask that you place your items in the kitchen. We have a container labeled "Little Free Food Pantry".

We are happy to announce that you can now donate online as well as through cash/checks to help support the Little Free Food Pantry. We will use these monies as needed to keep the pantry stocked as well as for upkeep and regular maintenance of the structure. You can scan the QR code below or when you go online through the church website, please search for the Little Free Food Pantry. When writing a check or cash, please write on the memo line "The Little Free Food Pantry", so these monies will be directed towards this mission. Thank you for helping us to continue to spread joy!





# AUG 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		01	02	03	04	05
Please, let's join together and collectively pray for...		The safety of our youth and their leaders.	The financial prosperity for KirkWood.	God's grace, mercy, and love to grow in our lives.	Ann's choir directing for clarity and harmony.	The KirkWood garden to grow.
06	07	08	09	10	11	12
Visitors feel welcomed and loved by all.	Fighting in the world, America, and our towns.	Safety and enjoyment for families who are vacationing.	College students who begin a new year.	Chris sermons: they are God inspired and timely.	Power to forgive someone today.	Kirkwood's volunteers for all the events we do.
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Ask God to suggest someone in the church who you can pray for.	Teachers returning to school for 2023 – 2024 school year.	Growth in the committees in our church for the glory of God.	Albertina's abilities be used for God's glory.	The family members of our staff.	Tim's humbleness in cleaning up our messes.	The choir's dedication and praise to God.
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
All who visit KirkWood to experience God's love.	A smile to someone who needs encouragement.	Session members as they guide the church.	Trust in the God with my life.	The physical grounds of KirkWood.	Jeannine's leadership of the children to the Lord.	Missions committee as they fulfil the Great Commission
27	28	29	30	31		
The dedication of those who are new to KirkWood.	Students returning to school for the 2023 – 2024 school year.	The health and safety of all who come to KirkWood.	Katie's love of babies and their growth.	The upcoming new "year" for Christian Education.		

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