

KirkWood Kronicle

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

December 2023
January 2024



KirkWood Family,

Given the timing of this combined December and January newsletter, I thought it might be best to use this space to offer some spiritual preparation for the season of Advent which is upon us.

First, some basics about “Advent,” as written by Rev. Dr. Mark D. Roberts, of The Max De Pree Center for Leadership at Fuller Seminary:

“Advent is a word that means “coming” or “visit”. In the Christian season of Advent, we prepare for the “advent” of Christ at Christmas, but also look ahead to His second coming. Our sacred remembering takes several forms -

- We remember Israel’s hope for the coming of God’s Messiah to save, to forgive, and to restore.
- We remember our hope for the second coming of Jesus.
- We remember our need for a Savior to save us from our sins right here and right now.
- We prepare to welcome Christ at Christmas into our world . . . and into our hearts.”

The PCUSA’s Book of Common Worship expands on those basic ideas this way, accentuating what Christ came to launch at His first coming, what He will complete at His second, and the incompleteness we feel deeply while living between the two:

“In Advent we expectantly wait for the One who has already come. We anticipate the promised justice of God’s new world, yet we praise God who raised the “righteous branch” to rule with justice and righteousness. We hope for the restoration of the



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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 and the church website.

Sunday School: 8:30 AM (adults) and 11:00 AM for all ages



afflicted, the tormented, and the grieving, yet we delight that healing has come in Christ. We long for the beating of swords into plowshares, yet we rejoice that the Prince of Peace has appeared. We yearn for the barren deserts of our inner cities to flourish, yet we laud the desert Rose that has bloomed. We dream of the land where lions and lambs live in harmony, yet we acclaim the child born to lead us into the promised land.

Christ has come! Christ is risen! Christ will come again! In Advent, we are living between the first and the second coming of the Lord...We are between memory and hope, past and future...The tension and paradox we find in Advent should shape our celebrations during the season.”

I hope these two citations ground you for the upcoming Advent season, or, if you were unaware, clue you in on why Advent is such a big deal. It is wider in scope than its central, preoccupying event – the incarnation of the Word of God, what C. S. Lewis called “the grand miracle” of the Christian faith.

Let me finish with a prayer from United Methodist pastor Jerry Chism for this forthcoming Advent season, one you can use over the next week or so in your own devotional life:

“Oh Immanuel, God with us, truly in this Advent season we celebrate that you are not hidden in some faraway cloud, but you chose to be with us in the blur and mystery of our lives.

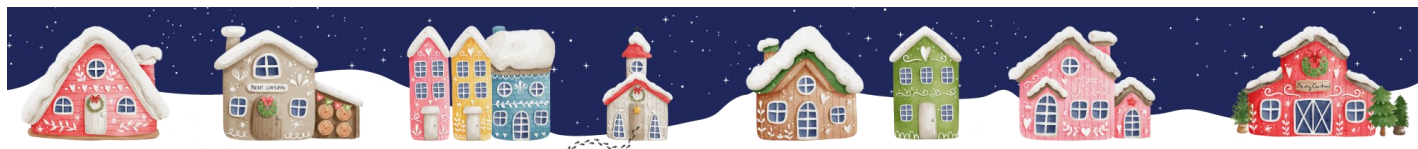
In the midst of lists and rush, you are with us as a song that echoes in our minds, as the light of a candle, as a card from a friend. They are signs of your presence.

We turn to you this season and pray that you would birth joy and healing, blessing and hope in us. Let something wonderful begin in us — something surprising and holy.

May your hand be upon us. Let your love fill us. Let your joy overwhelm us.

Let our longing for you be met on a coming holy night. Immanuel with us once again. Amen.”

Warmly,
Pastor Chris



December

December 10th - Cookies, Carols, and "A Christmas Carol" at 6:30 PM

December 17th - Christmas Cantata at 9:30 AM

December 24th - Christmas Eve Services at 9:30 AM, 5:00 PM, and 11:00 PM

December 25th - Christmas Day (Church Office Closed)

January

January 1st - New Year's Day (Church Office Closed)

January 15th - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 20th - Spaghetti Supper and Silent Auction 4:00-6:45 PM

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Get to Know Someone New!

Congregational Care

LET'S GET IN THE SPIRIT! Join us on Sunday, December 10th, at 6:30 PM for some "Cookies, Carols, and 'A Christmas Carol'." In addition to a variety of sweets, we'll have Wassail and coffee, and be entertained by our own Ann Brown and her Merry Carolers. After that, we'll adjourn to the sanctuary to enjoy George C. Scott in "A Christmas Carol." You can sign up in the narthex or on-line. And, oh, don't forget to wear your most festive (i.e., ugly) Christmas Sweater!

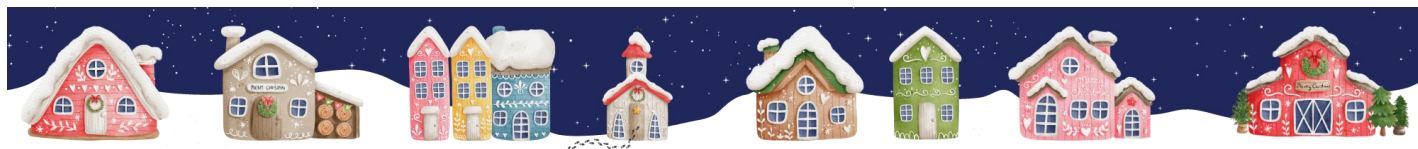


FEBRUARY IS CHILI MONTH! Well, not really. But that's when we're having our annual chili cook-off in 2024. It will be a Valentine's-themed event on Saturday, February 10th, at 6:00 PM. Details to follow.



KIRKWOOD DINING PARTNERS: How about Sunday brunch? Join the Dining Partners at Bella Bakery and Bistro on Sunday, December 10, at noon. The restaurant is located at 1215Q George Washington Memorial Hwy (Route 17) in the Kiln Creek Shopping Center. POC is Cindy Williamson [(757) 344-5577].





KIRKWOOD SILVER: The group plans to celebrate the beautiful Christmas season together over delicious food in a lovely Christmas atmosphere on Thursday, December 14th at Al Fresco Ristorante at NOON. The restaurant is located at 11710 Jefferson Avenue, NN, just a short distance west of Route 17 South. There is plenty of parking. Sign up by December 10th.



In January, we will meet at KirkWood on Thursday, January 18th, to view a movie about the life of C.S. Lewis, "The Most Reluctant Convert". Details to follow.

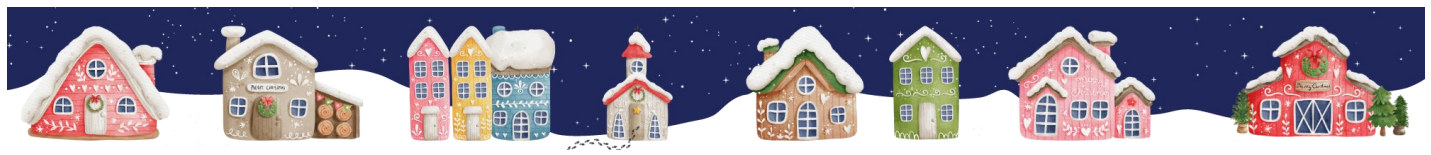
WALKING GROUP: What better way to feel the holiday spirit than to stroll down the streets of Colonial Williamsburg during the Christmas season. The KirkWood Walking Group will be meeting at the visitor's center at Colonial Williamsburg at 9:00 AM on Saturday December 9th. Those that would like to caravan up together can meet at KirkWood at 8:15 AM. Come join us for the fun and magic of the season as we stroll down Duke of Gloucester Street together to enjoy the sights and sounds of the season.



MEALS SUPPORT: If due to illness, hospitalization, or other circumstances you require assistance in providing meals for yourself or family, CC is here to help. We can arrange for volunteers to provide up to three meals for your home during these times. Under exceptional conditions, we will work with you or your family to provide additional support. POC is Wendy Linehan [(757) 509-8233].



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



Stewardship: The Meaning of Generosity

Stewardship

Generosity is the way we demonstrate GOD's love to us by sharing our resources with our neighbors and church. Calvin teaches that all gifts are "bestowed by God and entrusted to us to distribute for our neighbor's benefit; we are stewards of everything God has conferred." We are to be good stewards with our presence, prayers, and financial resources.

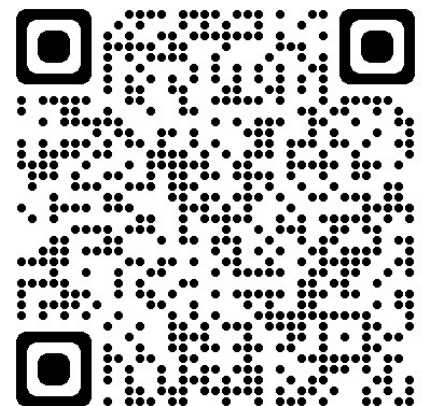
Also, we should be generous with our words. Not in an over wordy way or talk too much but to select our words carefully for the benefit and uplifting of others. We should thank GOD and others for their acts of generosity.

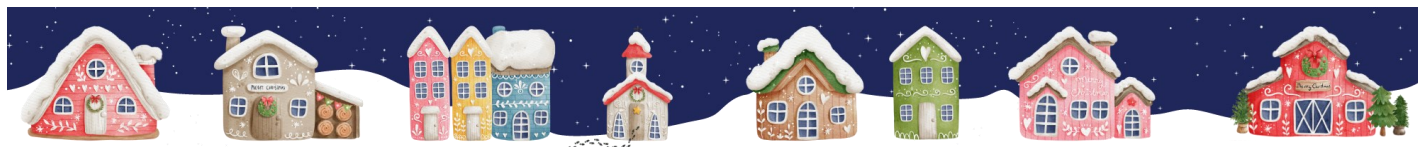
To that end, the Stewardship Committee would like to thank you for your generosity during the Commitment Season at Kirkwood. If this newsletter were 15 pages long, we could not begin to be able to list the many times you have been generous with your presence, prayers, and financial giving to KirkWood this past year.

In GOD's name,
Thank you

KirkWood has a new **online** Pledge/Commitment Card!!! If you'd like to make your 2024 pledge to KirkWood using this new, convenient capability:

1) go to <https://kirkwoodpcusa.org/> and click on "Pledge" at the bottom right of the screen --OR--
2) use this QR code to go directly to the form. Kathy Fore, KirkWood's Financial Secretary, is the only person who will see your pledge.





Opportunities to Feed Our Neighbors

Mission



Minute for Mission

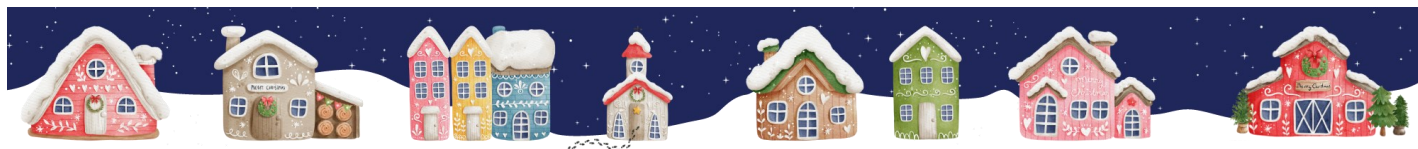
KirkWood's Mission Committee has been busy since our very successful 2023 Pumpkin Patch season wrapped up. As the holidays and cooler weather begin, we continue to look to the best way to support our surrounding community. You will notice new signage and an updated name for our food pantry. Our pantry is now named the **KirkWood Food Kupboard**. This is to best communicate our Kupboard's mission and service to those in our community. We continue to collect food items in the Narthex. Additionally, please feel free to place your items directly into the pantry at any time.

Our Kupboard is lovingly monitored by a few Mission committee members. We would like to extend the offer to those in our congregation who wish to take a day, several days, or even a week to keep the pantry stocked with provisions from the Narthex and stay in communication with Susie Seay should the pantry begin to run low. Below you will find the link/QR code to the SignUp Genius with dates beginning in 2024.

We are just now starting our PORT season and invite you to join us on any of our PORT dates in December, January, and February. Please look at the sign-up sheets on the board in the hallway. We have been busy helping THRIVE get their new facility up and running... it is coming together nicely! And in 2024 look for information for a new organization we are supporting called Sleep in Heavenly Peace. Our committee, and anyone in our congregation, will help build 20 (or more) twin-sized beds, in one day, for children in need who do not have a bed to call their own. More information will be shared as February 17, 2024 approaches.

[https://www.signupgenius.com/
go/9040849A4AB2A1-little#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040849A4AB2A1-little#/)





Outreach and Mission Opportunity

Outreach

As you may know, KirkWood partners with First Hampton Presbyterian to provide lunches to the homeless in the Hampton area. We provide lunches on months with a 5th Thursday (once a quarter). This is an excellent time to fellowship with other folks from KirkWood and with our brothers and sisters at First Hampton.

First Hampton has asked for additional help for the 2nd Thursday lunch program. The First Hampton 2nd Thursday team is short several members. They need 2 volunteers every 2nd Thursday of the month. First Hampton will provide all the supplies for the lunches. Our task would be to arrive at 10:00 AM, assist assembly of the lunches and hand them out to visitors from 11:30 AM-1:00 PM. First Presbyterian, Hampton is at 514 Armistead Ave.

The Outreach and Mission committees have created a Sign Up Genius site to sign up for this opportunity. The link is [re-brand.ly/2ndHamptonlunch](https://rebrand.ly/2ndHamptonlunch). A QR code is below. You can sign up for any 2nd Thursday in 2024. Contact Arba Williamson [(757) 344-5588] or Connie Barlow [(757) 876-4791] for more information.



Christmas Worship Schedule

Sunday, 12/17

9:30 a.m. "All Is Well" Cantata

Sunday 12/24 - Christmas Eve Services

9:30 a.m. Worship

5:00 p.m. Family Candlelight and Communion

11:00 p.m. Candlelight and Communion

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