

KirkWood Kronicle

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

December 2024



I was searching through past articles about Advent on The Presbyterian Outlook website, doing a little legwork for our upcoming Advent Sundays at KirkWood, and stumbled across this – an Advent prayer by the former editor in chief, Rev. Jill Duffield. She puts into words some of my own feelings as we head into the holiday season...maybe it will do the same for you.

It made me wonder...What am I waiting for this Advent? What is our church waiting for? What is the world waiting for? And, most importantly, what is God waiting for?

“What are you waiting for, Alpha and Omega? Are you waiting for us to recognize our need for you? We are desperate for your inbreaking.

What are you waiting for, Most High God? Are you waiting for us to plead for relief from the chaos we have created? We cry out on behalf of a groaning creation to deliver us from evil.

What are you waiting for, God of our ancestors? Are you waiting for us to give thanks for your inexplicable unwillingness to give up on us? We praise you for your relentless love for the world and for your steadfast care of us.

What are you waiting for, Triune God? Are you waiting for us to better reflect the Savior we prepare to welcome and worship? We admit our shortcomings and ask for your help trusting the Spirit will intercede for us.



KirkWood Presbyterian Church

1209 Hampton Highway | Yorktown, VA 23693

Phone: 757-766-0343

Email: office@KirkWoodpcusa.org | Website: <http://www.KirkWoodpcusa.org/>

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



We are waiting, Gracious God, for your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, full of grace and truth, to join our human family, take on our human frailty, bind up our wounds, make us whole and save us.

We know we do not wait or work in vain because you, God of all that is seen and unseen, keep your word, stay true to your character and promise to never abandon us. Confident as your children, we wait in peace, eager to bear witness to your love incarnate, Emmanuel, God with us now and always, amen.”



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December & January Important Dates



December 1st – Food Pantry Collection

December 8th – Dining Partners Brunch
at noon (Steak & Tonic)

H.O.P.E. (Helping Other People Eat)
Offering

December 12th – Poquoson Food Bank
Distribution at 8:00 AM

December 15th – *The Longest Night*
service at 9:30 AM

December 20th – P.O.R.T. (New Beech
Grove Baptist) from 3:00 – 9:00 PM

December 21st – P.O.R.T. (New Beech
Grove Baptist) from 4:30 – 6:00 AM

Caroling at 4:00 PM

December 24th – Family Christmas Eve
Service at 5:00 PM

Candlelight/Communion Christmas
Eve Service at 11:00 PM

December 24th -25th – Church Office
Closed for Christmas

December 31st – Church Office Closed
for New Year's Eve

January 1st – Church Office Closed for
New Year's Day

January 5th – Food Pantry Collection

January 11th – Dining Partners at 6:00
PM – Thai Tara Sushi & Bar

January 12th – H.O.P.E. (Helping Other
People Eat) Offering

January 16th – KirkWood Silver
Luncheon at 11:30 AM – Al Fresco

January 18th – Chili Cook-Off at 6:00 PM



Congregational Care Update

Congregational Care

Ugly Christmas Sweater Sunday: It's that time of year, when ugly sweaters appear. So, get yours out of storage or buy a new one so you can wear it to church on Sunday, December 22nd. Oh, and bake your favorite Christmas cookies and bring them along with the recipe to the fellowship hall after the service. We will publish recipes online so everyone can grab their favorites. We just can't wait to see all those ugly sweaters in one location though sunglasses may be required!

SAVE THE DATE: Chili Cook-off Is Coming: Our annual chili cook-off will be held on Saturday, January 18th, at 6 PM: As in the past, our esteemed panel of judges will be grading chilis in three categories: Four-legged (e.g., beef and pork), Two-legged (e.g., poultry), and No/Mo-legged (e.g., Vegetarian and Seafood). This is always a great event with plenty of chili to choose from, along with a lot of great side dishes and desserts from those non-chili cooks.

KirkWood Dining Partners: Upcoming events are shown below. You can sign up in the narthex or contact Cindy Williamson at cwillic114@gmail.com to be added to the list. Please share this with others who may be interested in joining us for food, fellowship and fun.

- December 8, 2024, York Gardens & Tearoom, 12:30 PM
- January 11, 2025, Thai Tara, Williamsburg, 6:00 PM
- February 8, 2025, Los Compadres, Hampton, 6:00 PM
- March 15, 2025, Kephikitchen, Williamsburg, 6:00 PM
- April 12, 2025, Tuscany, NN 6:00 PM
- May 10, 2025, TBD, 6:00 PM





KirkWood Silver: A Christmas feast of soups, salad, and breadsticks awaits KirkWood Silver friends on Thursday, December 12th, at 11:30 AM, in the Fellowship Hall! There will be a variety of Olive Garden's scrumptious soups. We would appreciate several volunteers bringing cookies or other easy-to-serve desserts. The cost of the feasting will be less than \$10. The celebration will continue following lunch as we watch the delightful Christmas classic movie, "Miracle on 34th Street," starring Mara Wilson as Susan and Richard Attenborough as Santa. Sign up in the Narthex through December 8th. Questions? Contact Wanda Birch at (757) 868-8651 or wandjbirch@verizon.net.

KirkWood 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 returning to Colonial Williamsburg at 10:00 AM on Saturday, December 7th. Those who would like to caravan up together can meet at KirkWood at 9:15 AM. We'll be parking at a lot closer to Merchant Square this year. 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. Contact Bruce or Janet Knight with questions.

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 (757) 375-7520.



Linus Group Creates and Donates

Congregational Care

On November 20th, 2024, Linus Group collected hats and scarves to be delivered to the Salvation Army and P.O.R.T. The items were hand knitted or crocheted by ladies of our group or friends of Linus Group.

We collected 40 hats and matching scarves, 7 scarves, 95 adult hats, 44 children's hats, 5 adult and 6 children's head bands, 2 bonnets, 2 pair of children's fingerless mittens, 1 baby cape, 1 toddler vest, and 1 knitted pocket book.

Thank you to all the ladies of the Kirkwood Linus Group and friends who contributed.





A Note of Thanks

Missions

Merry Christmas, KirkWood! Thank you for your generous donations to the Christmas Offering this year as well as your loving and plentiful donations to the many branches of KirkWood's food ministry. Our Kupboard, St. Lukes' Food Bank, THRIVE, and P.O.R.T. programs could not serve our community the way we do without your endless dedication to these ministries. Be on the lookout for our upcoming P.O.R.T. date on December 20th and opportunities to volunteer.

In the spirit of the season, please take a moment to read this email sent to us from Angela York, from THRIVE Peninsula. We are proud and honored to partner with such a fantastic program that serves our community so well.

Today, we celebrate the one-year mark since the opening of THRIVE's new home. On November 20, 2023, we opened the doors to our space on Nettles Drive, welcoming the community to The Market at THRIVE, the Peninsula's first free grocery store. One year later, we are thrilled to share BIG NEWS!

Together, we've surpassed our \$1.5 million Future for THRIVE Campaign goal, fully funding the purchase and renovation of our facility. This means every contribution moving forward will have an even greater impact, directly supporting programs that uplift our neighbors in need.

Thanks to your support, THRIVE Peninsula has become so much more than a building—it's a beacon of hope and possibility. Over the past year:

We've served more than 30,000 people, already exceeding our goal of 25,000.

*Our partnerships have expanded to include programs like **Hispanic Resources**, **Project Connect**, and **The Free Bookstore**.*

*Volunteers have grown our **THRIVE Garden**, producing hundreds of pounds of fresh produce.*





We've implemented sustainability initiatives, such as the installation of solar panels and rain barrels have helped us operate with remarkable efficiency. Plus, we have tenants in our building that contribute funds to support our operational costs and future growth.

This anniversary is more than a milestone, it's a testament to what we can achieve when we believe. We've built a stigma-free, dignified space where families find hope, stability, and a path forward.

Thank you for joining us on this journey and helping us build on this vision for our community. With your ongoing support, we'll ensure that everyone has the opportunity to THRIVE.

With heartfelt gratitude,





2025 Blood Drive Dates Announced

Mission

The November Red Cross Blood Drive was held on Thursday, November 14th. During the drive we collected 36 units of blood! Our goal was 34, so we exceeded that. A huge thanks to the members of Kirkwood, as well as, the community for coming out. The presenting donors and all present were treated to delicious soups, bread, and desserts prepared by our wonderful Kirkwood cooks and bakers. Thank you to all who contribute food, money and time to this mission. We could not do it without you.

Our 2025 dates are as follows:

All Thursdays

1:00-6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall

February 20th, May 15th, August 21st, and November 20th

You can go to the Red Cross website or contact Cathy Hudgins (hudgepudge@aol.com) to make your appointment for you. The website is: www.redcrossblood.org and in the upper right corner you can enter the sponsor code: KirkwoodPC to take you to the Kirkwood drive page.

The Longest Night
(a service of hope and healing)



Sunday, Dec. 15th 9:30 am

KirkWood Presbyterian Church



Generosity

Stewardship

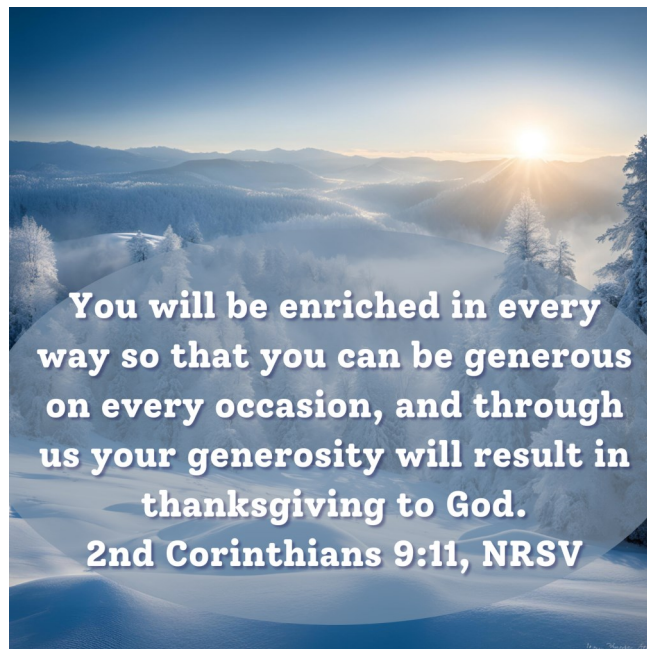
Generosity is the way we demonstrate GOD's love to us by sharing our resources with our neighbors and church. Calvin teaches that all gifts are "bestowed by God and entrusted to us to distribute for our neighbor's benefit; we are stewards of everything God has conferred." We are to be good stewards with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

Also, we should be generous with our words. Not in an overly wordy way or talking too much but selecting 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. You are still able to submit your pledge to KirkWood, online or by placing your commitment card in the box in the narthex of our church.

We cannot begin 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!





Calling All (Potential) Bell-Ringers

Worship

Calling all music-readers: Do you have a sense of humor? Are you curious about our bell choir? Have you wondered if you could play bells? Beginning in January, our bell choir has room for more! We rehearse Wednesday evenings 6:00 – 6:45 PM. **WE WILL TRAIN YOU!** Music-reading is not a pre-requisite, but it is helpful.

Please contact the church office if you are interested or “pre”interested.



Christmas Worship Schedule

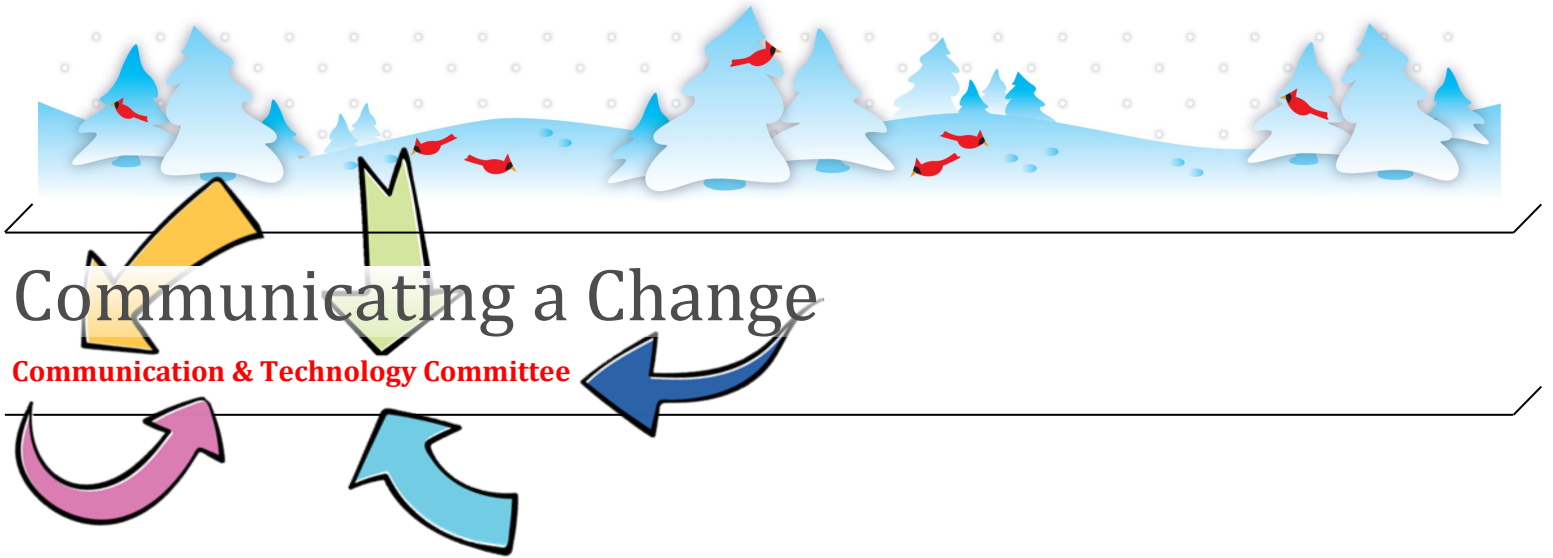
Sunday, 12/15

9:30 a.m. “The Longest Night”

Tuesday, 12/24 - Christmas Eve Services

5:00 p.m. Family Candlelight and Communion

11:00 p.m. Candlelight and Communion



Did you notice? We are changing! The Technology Committee is becoming the Communication and Technology Committee. Why? The session recently looked at the role of the Technology Committee and realized an increasingly large portion of the committee’s role was supporting communication tools. There was also a need to place the ownership of non-technology communication into an appropriate committee. Thus, the expansion of the Technology Committee role seemed natural.

We are still working out all the details, but the Communication and Technology Committee is changing to ensure that messaging from the various committees is consistent and effective. This will include such things as our website, texting, and social media content; monitoring the effectiveness of internal and external communications; and maintaining the various communication tools KirkWood uses. All of this in support of the “making Him known to all” part of KirkWood’s vision statement.

We will be looking for people who are interested in church communication to join us. Keep your eyes and ears peeled as we share more about this change!



Foundation for the Future FAQs

Administration

The Committee would like to thank everyone who stopped by the Foundations of the Future table at KirkWood's Friendsgiving on Saturday November 23rd. Members of the church made many lovely Christmas items to sell. The tickets to several Christmas events around Hampton Roads were greatly appreciated.

The campaign will end on December 31, 2024. We are about \$1,000 short of the matching gift of up to \$10,000 donated by a member of KirkWood. Donations will be accepted online through our website or you may place your donation in the little brown church in the narthex.

Thank you for considering these special needs of our church building.



SAVE THE DATE!!

Christmas Caroling Party



Saturday, Dec. 21st 4:00 – 6:00 PM

Please grab your family (especially your children), your friends, and your voice and join us as we bring Christmas cheer to residents of two retirement homes and the officers at the York County Fire and Safety Station at Tabb .

We'll meet at the church at 3:45 PM (we will pile into the church van and cars). Afterwards, we'll return to the Fellowship Hall for refreshments.

Song sheets will be provided!



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