

KirkWood Kronicle

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

February 2025



KirkWood family,

If you're friends with me on Facebook (and I hope you are...if you're not, find me so we can connect!), you'll know that I love a good quote, however short or long. One that looks at a familiar problem from a different angle or with new hope, one that uses language like the warmth of an embrace or the jolt of freezing cold water, or one from an expert who exudes a depth of wisdom that we ourselves can't possibly attain simply because that person has devoted the better

part of their life to a subject we have not.

So, this month I thought I'd treat my Kronicle article like my Facebook page, and pass along some of the best citations I've come across in my own study, leisure reading, and podcast listening since the start of the new year...

Enjoy!

Much love, Pastor Chris

On the existential gaps that separate us and how to bridge them – by novelist Ann

Enright:

“We don't walk down the same street as the person walking beside us. All we can do is tell the other person what we see. We can point at things and try to name them. If we do this well, our friend can look at the world in a new way. We can meet...There is a real gap between me and the next person, there is a space between every human being. And it is not a frightening space. The empty air which exists between people might be crossed by emotion, but it might not. You need something else, or you need something *first*... Perhaps we struggle because we



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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



have the wrong goal in mind – it’s not merging our points of view but bringing them close enough together to influence and affect each other...Perhaps, in the end, the measure of understanding — which is “love’s other name” — is not seeing the same light but seeing the light in each other.”

We are what we love – by essayist Maria Popova (The Marginalia)

“Love, but be careful what you love,’ the Roman African philosopher Saint Augustine wrote in the final years of the fourth century. We are, in some deep sense, what we love — we become it as much as it becomes us, beckoned from our myriad conscious and unconscious longings, despairs, and patterned desires. And yet there is something profoundly paradoxical about such an appeal to reason in the notion that we can exercise prudence in matters of love — to have loved is to have known the straitjacket of irrationality that slips over even the most willful mind when the heart takes over with its delicious carelessness...Fearlessness is what love seeks. Love as craving is determined by its goal, and this goal is freedom from fear.”

Who Said That Love Was Fire? – by poet David Whyte

*Who said that love was fire?
I know that love is ash.
It is the thing which remains
When the fire is spent,
The holy essence of experience.*





And one final quote, one that runs parallel with our current Sunday series, “Shine Like Stars” – by esteemed biblical scholar N. T. Wright, from his book Surprised by Hope:

“Left to ourselves we lapse into a kind of collusion with entropy, acquiescing in the general belief that things may be getting worse but that there’s nothing much we can do about them. And we are wrong. Our task in the present...is to live as resurrection people in between Easter and the final day, with our Christian life, corporate and individual, in both worship and mission, as a sign of the first and a foretaste of the second.”



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- February 5th – P.O.R.T. starting at 3:00PM (Generations Church)
- February 6th – Feeding the Hungry at 10:00AM (First Presbyterian Hampton)
- February 9th – UNITE Meeting at 11:00AM H.O.P.E. (Helping Other People Eat) Offering
- February 15th – Dining Partners at 6:00PM (Williamsons’ house)
- February 17th – President’s Day (*Church Office Closed*)
- February 20th – Red Cross Blood Drive 1:00-6:00pm
- February 22nd – Drive-By Food Collection 9:00-11:00AM
Talent/No Talent Show and Dessert Potluck at 6:00PM



Congregational Care Update

Congregational Care

COO-KIES, COO-KIES! As promised, the cookie recipes from Ugly Christmas Sweater Sunday have been posted to the KirkWood website and can be found at <https://kirkwoodpcusa.org/ugly-sweater-sunday-cookie-recipes/>

Upcoming Events: On Saturday, February 22nd, at 6:00PM, KirkWood will be bringing back its Talent/No Talent Show. In addition to our entertainment, we plan to have a desert potluck in the Fellowship Hall after the show, so make a point to attend and bring your favorite sweet treat (and we don't mean your spouse though they are certainly welcome!). Our Music Director, Ann Brown, is in charge and will be providing more details regarding the entertainment in a separate announcement.

In a nod to Saint Patrick's Day, Congregational Care will be hosting a "Green Sunday" celebration on March 16th in the Fellowship Hall after the worship service. Be sure to wear a bit o' green and maybe you'll be blessed with the luck o' the Irish! (Unless you are a devoted Ulster Scot, in which case orange may be befitting, in honor of William of Orange.)

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.

February 15th Valentine's Potluck at the Williamsons', 6:00PM

March 15th Kephi Kitchen, Williamsburg, 6:00PM

April 12th Tuscany, Newport News, 6:00 PM

May 10th TBD, 6:00 PM

KirkWood Silver: Whether it feels like winter or spring, the best place to be on February 20th is with KIRKWOOD SILVER for lunch at Jimmy da Greeks, 1215 George Washington Memorial Highway, (Route 17). Arrive at 11:30AM, and order one of the most delicious



sandwiches you've ever had! Jimmy offers a wide variety of subs (18, to be exact and with neat names!), specialty sandwiches, burgers and chicken sandwiches, pizza, and more! Come join us for a memorable lunch out with KirkWood Silver friends! Sign up in the Narthex from February 2nd through 16th. Contact Wanda Birch at 757-868-8651 or wandjbirch@verizon.net.

KirkWood Walking Group: Mother nature may have postponed us with a snowstorm in January, but we will not be beaten! The KirkWood Walking Group will be returning to walk the beautiful Noland Trail in Newport News on February 15th at 10:00AM. What better way to start the new year than a brisk walk in the woods with some friends.

There are walking options for beginners all the way up to seasoned hikers. Nobody walks alone. There will be a gentle 1-2 mile option, a 3.5 mile loop option for the moderate hikers, and a challenging 5 mile trail option winding through the beautiful park. We will meet in the first parking lot on the right just before you reach the Mariner's Museum building.

Come join the fun and fellowship as we take in God's beauty and fun while getting some exercise and talking to friends. If you have any questions, contact Janet Knight (757) 303-4253 or Bruce Knight (757) 303-4252.

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 to 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.



Love in Light of God's Word

Missions

Happy February from your Mission Committee

As we step into February, a month we often associate with love, we would like to reflect on what love truly means in the light of God's word. 1 Corinthians tells us that love is kind and always perseveres. Love is a choice, and it is an action.

Our KirkWood Kupboard is love in action. Oftentimes, those who help monitor our Kupboard enlist the help of their children and grandchildren. Recently, one of our monitors used her time at the pantry as a learning opportunity. After a day at the movies, she had her child add up what they could have spent on food from the concession stand. They then used that same amount of money to go shopping for pantry groceries! While taking it to the Kupboard, a man with his teenaged son pulled up. The man insisted that he had items to drop off but wanted her and her son to go first. As she was driving away, the father and son went up to the pantry and were able to take a few items. She used this moment as time to discuss how the KirkWood Kupboard allows a family in need to come and get what they need privately. Additionally, her child was able to see that their snack money could provide four meals for a family! Love is evident here in the patience we show to one another and through kindness we extend to strangers.

As we sit here recovering from the snow and ice of January, we know that February often brings the early blooms of spring. This early hint of springtime renewal reminds us that we hold onto the hope that comes from God alone. And in the spirit of love, we know that God's love for humanity is the foundation of our mission to help others. Planning ahead, we look forward to a mission trip opportunity to help, and bring hope and healing, to the regions so devastated by the hurricanes in 2024. We are planning a week in North Carolina from July 27th to August 2nd. Mark your calendars and look for updates, more information, and sign ups, as the details are finalized.



Donate Blood, Time, or Money

Mission

If you would like to sign up to assist with the KirkWood Kupboard, please use this QR Code to see opportunities available:



Our next **Red Cross Blood Drive** is scheduled for Thursday, February 20th, from 1:00-6:00PM in the Fellowship Hall. All blood types are desperately needed. The meal for the next drive has not been set, but we can still use help with it if you are willing.

2025 Dates: (All from 1:00-6:00PM in the Fellowship Hall), May 15th, August 21st, and November 20th, 2025.

The schedules for the February and May drives are open and you can go online to schedule your appointments or contact Cathy Hudgins (hudgepudge@aol.com) to make your appointment for you. You can go to www.redcrossblood.org and in the upper right corner you can enter the sponsor code: KirkwoodPC to take you to the Kirkwood page.

If you would like to inquire about helping at the drives or with donating food or funds to defray the cost of the food during the drives, please contact Cathy.



Lend a Hand if You Are Handy

Property & Facilities

Are you looking for a way to get involved in the church but do not want to commit to a big project? The Property & Facilities Committee always has a list of small projects that you can help out with both inside and outside the church and of varying skill level. We are also currently forming our grass mowing teams and are looking for volunteers to be part of this task. To help with grass mowing, contact Scott Shoun at (757) 871-9811 or email at sshoun1@yahoo.com. For all other tasks contact Jamie Reno at 757-880-3242 or email at h2orenos@gmail.com.



talent

SAVE THE DATE!!

**Talent/No Talent Show: Saturday, Feb. 22nd
6:00PM**

The KirkWood Talent/No Talent show is scheduled for Feb. 22nd! Bring the entire family and invite your friends to an evening of talented acts and not-so-talented spoofs! Bruce Knight will be our Emcee. The show will be followed by a dessert reception in the Fellowship Hall. This event is a well-attended KirkWood tradition, so don't miss it!



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Knowing, Loving, and Serving Christ,
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