

# KirkWood Kronicle

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

January 2025



Though I'm putting this article together before Christmas, you'll be reading it around the New Year. And that turn of the calendar tends to provoke both looking back and looking forward simultaneously.

If the great Greek philosopher Socrates was right that "the unexamined life is not worth living," could an unexamined year bode poorly for the year to come? There are powerful cultural headwinds working against this kind of pause and reflection: far too many who blather or dance about to garner our fleeting attention online or in

the media would simply tell us to charge ahead, however blindly and thoughtlessly...

...movement at all costs...

...time not pressing forward is time wasted...

...it's better to wear out than rust out.

One of the great flaws in this approach to life is simply this: the further you sprint ahead in an ill-conceived or poorly chosen direction, the further off course you become.

In the hopes of prompting some healthy examination as a springboard into 2025, let me point us to a few questions offered by Emily Freeman, a writer, podcaster, and spiritual director I've come to appreciate a great deal over the last few years. (You can learn more about her, her books, and her podcast here - [Home 2021 - Emily P. Freeman](#)).

In her own words, these questions are meant to "to help create space for your soul to breathe



**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 and the church website.

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



so that you can discern your next right thing.”

Here are five questions you can ponder, pray about, journal about, and reflect upon once or a couple of times before we get too far into the new year:

What worked in 2024?

What didn't work in 2024?

What's something that inspired you in 2024?

When did you feel seen and loved in 2024?

What do you sense God might be inviting you to in 2025?

For many of us, we won't be able to remember all the way back to the beginning of 2024, at least not in great detail. But if you spend some time backtracking through the big events, conversations, turns, and surprises of 2024, trying to relive them in as vivid detail and emotion as you can, you'll probably recall a few key moments that you'd otherwise forget.

My hope for you as you do this reflective work can be summed up in this citation from Austrian poet Rainer Maria Rilke – “And now we welcome the new year. Full of things that have never been.”





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January 5<sup>th</sup> – Food Pantry Collection

January 11<sup>th</sup> – Dining Partners at 6:00PM – Los Compadres Taqueria

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

January 16<sup>th</sup> – KirkWood Silver Luncheon at 11:30AM – Al Fresco

January 18<sup>th</sup> – Chili Cook-Off at 6:00PM



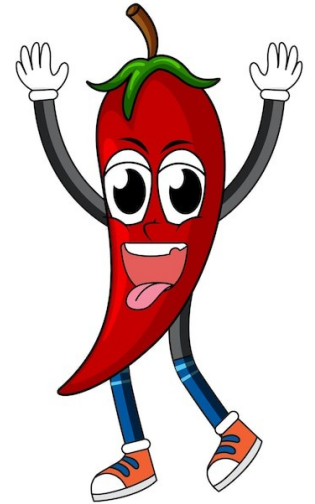
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# Stay Warm; Stay Connected

## Congregational Care

**Chili Cook-Off:** Our annual chili cook-off will be held on Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 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. There will also be entertainment to go with the great food. Look for sign-ups in the Narthex and on-line. Bring on the hot stuff!



**SAVE THE DATE:** On Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, KirkWood will be bringing back its Talent/No Talent Show, and if past shows are any indication, there will be plenty of both. Stay tuned for details.



**KirkWood Silver:** We will be staying nice and warm in January while we enjoy warmhearted fellowship over warm and delicious food at Al Fresco Ristorante on January 16<sup>th</sup>! We will meet at the restaurant at 11710 Jefferson Avenue at 11:30AM. Please sign up in the Narthex between December 29<sup>th</sup> through January 12<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to carpool or ride

the van, please let us know early so we can plan for shared transportation. Questions? Contact Wanda Birch at 757-868-8651 or [wandjbirch@verizon.net](mailto:wandjbirch@verizon.net).





**KirkWood Dining Partners:** Upcoming events are shown below. You can sign up in the narthex or contact Cindy Williamson at [cwillic114@gmail.com](mailto: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.



January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Los Compadres, Hampton,  
6:00PM

February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, TBD

March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Kephi Kitchen, Williamsburg,  
6:00PM

April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Tuscany, NN 6:00PM

May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025, TBD, 6:00PM

**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.



# “Make Him Known to All”

## Missions and Outreach

Thanks to so many of you in our generous congregation, we had a fantastic year in 2024! Looking back, we hit the ground running and accomplished great things: we participated with the Sleep in Heavenly Peace program, partnered with 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church on a mission trip, we participated with the Sleep in Heavenly Peace program, partnered with 1st Presbyterian Church of Hampton on a mission trip and a rise against hunger event, and prepared/served countless lunches for the unhoused population. We stayed very busy with York Poquoson Department of Social Services through a variety of service projects and, through matching Christmas Offering donations, we helped them provide many happy Christmas celebrations for those in need in the area.

P.O.R.T. season is upon us with our next date to serve on February 5<sup>th</sup>. Check out our bulletin board in the hallway for information and the signup sheets. Our KirkWood Kupa-board and its monitoring group continue to grow and serve...we are very excited about our new steppingstones in front of the structure...no more muddy drop offs and soggy shoes! As we look forward to 2025, we will continue serving and looking for additional opportunities to assist and help our local neighbors and communities across the country! 2025 promises to be a busy year and should you wish to join the committee, participate in activities, or have new and exciting ideas to bring to our attention, please stop any of the Mission Committee members in the hallway at any time. Better yet, consider coming to one of our monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of the month at (the new, earlier time

2024 was a very busy year for KirkWood’s Outreach Ministry. We had visiting families and individuals at worship services almost every week throughout year. The Outreach Committee partnered with other ministries to make KirkWood events and activities open and welcoming to all. The real heroes of 2024 were You, the members of the KirkWood community! Throughout the year, the KirkWood family showed kindness, friendliness, and an enthusiasm to make Christ’s love known to all. God is truly working at KirkWood and we look forward to 2025. In the new year, please continue to welcome everyone and to invite friends and family to join our Christian family.



# We Drove and Now We Are Driving

## Mission

2024 Recap: A HUGE Thank You to all those who support the Red Cross Blood Drives, either by donating, volunteering, or contributing to the menu. In 2024, we collected 168 units of life saving blood. Every unit of blood can save up to three lives. That's 504 potential lives saved. Strong work, Kirkwood! It's just one more way this community of faith steps up and makes a difference.

### 2025 Dates

February 20<sup>th</sup>, May 15<sup>th</sup>, August 21<sup>st</sup>, and November 20<sup>th</sup>

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

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](mailto:hudgepudge@aol.com)) to make your appointment for you. You can go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://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.

**BE A HERO**




**February 20**

**GIVE THE GREATEST**



**May 15**

**SAVE A LIFE**



**August 21**

**DO FOR THE LEAST OF THESE**



**November 20**



# Foundation for the Future FAQs

## Administration

Last year at this time, the Foundations for the Future Ad Hoc committee made a presentation to Session. This presentation contained information about raising funds for needed projects at Kirkwood.

The four projects approved by Session were:

1. Replacing the Roof
2. Updating the sound system in the Sanctuary
3. Adding additional parking places
4. Sealing the parking lot

After receiving estimates for each of the projects the committee, with the approval of Session, the goal for Foundations of the Future was set at \$150,000.

We began 2024 with a very successful Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction. During the last five minutes of the auction, it was thrilling and humorous to **watch bidders stand just across the hall from the object that they wanted to win.**

Starting in April, the Flamingos arrived in flocks. Many families awoke morning to find about 30 3-foot plastic flamingos in their yard. One family with small children remarked that just before the flamingos left their home the little boy walked around the flamingos





and kissed each flamingo good-bye. Paying to flock one another's yards boosted spirits and funds.

In September, we were able to announce a matching fund drive of \$10,000. KirkWood more than met the challenge! The check arrived in December. Also in September, at the annual picnic, the committee had a 50/50 drawing and an opportunity to "Pie the Pastor". Once again, the children had more fun than the adults, but the growing fund had the best time of all!

Our final project was done in conjunction with Congregational Care. Donations were accepted for Friendsgiving. Also, many people had the opportunity to purchase tickets to many Christmas performances around the Hampton Roads area. Every taste for entertainment was presented. Graciously, Heather Shearer, donated five handmade Christmas wreaths to the cause. Susie Egyud donated homemade Christmas themed items as well.

The monies raised for the Foundations for the Future were in addition to our weekly pledges, giving to the Blessing Fund, the Pumpkin Patch, our monthly collection in the Narthex for food in our area and our special offering at Christmas.

After one year, our current total for the Foundations for the Future campaign is \$147,252. That is \$2,748 short of our goal. Praise the Lord!!! The campaign ended December 31, 2024.

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