

# KirkWood Kronicle

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

April 2021

## A Message from our Pastor Chris Shearer



One of our current elders recently shared an article with our Session (board of elders), and, given its subject and how insightful it is, I wanted to share it with everyone.

This is from The Christian Century, entitled “Six predictions for the post-pandemic church,” by Peter W. Marty who is editor/publisher of the Century and senior pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Davenport, Iowa.

Here are his six post-pandemic predictions for church:

“First, the social and spiritual capital connected with congregational life will be increasingly valuable in a post-pandemic culture. A church’s ministry will need to be spirited and compelling, of course, especially if it’s to compete with the convenience of worship at home in pajamas. But as social gathering places (at least ones where people can meet without paying) get put on the endangered species list and remote work opportunities cocoon more and more people, as anchoring institutions of society move their activities online and plenty of us shift our purchasing, learning, and even medical care to the internet, the gathered church becomes an ever more precious entity.



### **KirkWood Presbyterian Church**

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Email: [office@kirkwoodpcusa.org](mailto:office@kirkwoodpcusa.org)  
Website: <http://www.kirkwoodpcusa.org/>

**Worship:** Sundays, 9:30 and 11 a.m. Our 9:30 service is available live and on demand via YouTube, accessible through KirkWood’s home page and our YouTube channel.

**Sunday School:** KirkWood offers fresh resources for individual, family, and group nurturing. Please see details on pages 5-7.

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Therefore, since through God’s  
mercy we have this ministry,  
we do not lose heart.

2 Corinthians 4:1 (NIV)

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“Thirst will increase for authentic community where moral formation and relationships of meaning can prosper. In social isolation, we have learned the truth of Frederick Buechner’s words: ‘You can survive on your own; you can grow strong on your own; you can prevail on your own; but you cannot become human on your own.’ Congregations will play a heightened role in providing thick human community.

“Second, worship during the pandemic has taught us that churches can be liberated from a fixation on counting. Church leaders have worked feverishly over the last year to try to calculate their church rolls and virtual attendance figures. But faith at its center is a transcendent mystery that refuses to be measured. Numbers depersonalize. If denominations and congregations can catch the spirit, there’s refreshing new freedom to be found in leaving religious bean counting behind.

“You can survive on your own; you can grow strong on your own; you can prevail on your own; but you cannot become human on your own.”

*Frederick Buechner*

“Third, the ability to conduct worthwhile ministry online throughout the pandemic has upended some of our obsessiveness over our church buildings. We’ve learned to live rich lives of faith independent of them. By the same token, we’ve also seen scores of people moved to tears just reentering sacred spaces that have shaped their spiritual and emotional being. Our extended experience with virtual church may allow us to appreciate our buildings as hubs for mission without idolizing them—a healthy reset.

“Fourth, there is some outside work ahead for pastoring in an age of conspiracy and disinformation. We’re seeing ‘a kind of moral freak show unfolding,’ says Peter Wehner, as lies penetrate our national psyche and a common sense of reality fades beneath the blurring of fact with fiction. But at least we know what we’re up against. Churches can be committed to speaking the truth, displaying constancy, addressing paranoia, denouncing cults, and elevating the gospel above every nefarious claim that demonizes others or sows chaos.





“Fifth, many churches have expanded their virtual reach in innovative ways and enlarged their social media presence. This is exciting. But we shouldn’t forget that the church stands or falls with the doctrine of the incarnation. ‘Jesus drew near to them,’ scripture reports. Intimacy, proximity, and personal presence will carry more genuine authority in a post-pandemic church than touting a large platform.

“Finally, the long pandemic gap should have congregations eager to address racial inequity, unconscious bias, and the everyday experiences of Black Americans. The creative joy of face-to-face conversation will be to get as many people around the table as possible thinking spiritually, confessionally, and enthusiastically about what the prophets and Jesus offer us in this journey of humility and reckoning.”

Warmly,  
Chris

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## April Special Dates

**April 1** — Maundy Thursday Service, 7 p.m.

**April 2** — Good Friday

**April 4** — Easter Sunday

**April 21** — Administrative Professionals Day





# WORSHIP SERVICE NEWS

Worship



On Maundy Thursday, April 1, at 7 p.m., KirkWood will commemorate Jesus' Last Supper. This Communion service will use Scripture and music to follow the last days of Jesus' life, from the Upper Room to the garden at Gethsemane and finally to the Cross.

*View the service on our YouTube channel and through our website. Replay will be available.*

## Limited In-Person Worship Resumes

The day we have been waiting for is right around the corner — Easter! This year, we are able to celebrate resurrection and new life by resuming limited in-person worship. Since COVID is still present in our community, the services will look similar to what we did last fall. There will be added cleaning and social distancing, no corporate singing, and masks will be required. There has been much anticipation for this, and many people are excited to worship in person, coming together as a body.

With the six-foot spacing between households that is required, we will have a limited capacity of between 40 and 50 people in the sanctuary. As a result, we will offer a third service for Easter at 8 a.m. in the sanctuary. We also have asked congregants to sign up for which service they plan to attend so that we can properly plan. This also will help balance attendance between the services. Anyone who is not comfortable with the risk

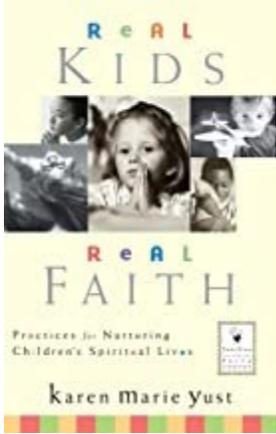
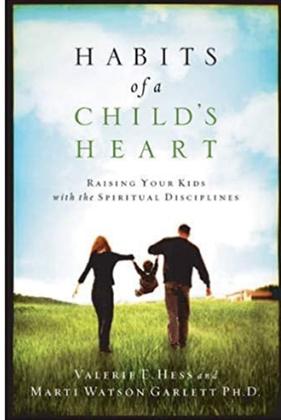
mitigation measures should not feel pressured to come to the church to worship. We will continue to stream the 9:30 service, so folks can watch at home live or on-demand. We will also continue to offer our phone call-in service for those who do not have access to YouTube.

Please sign up [here](#) for Easter Sunday in-person worship!

We continue to pray that conditions with COVID will rapidly improve, so that we can remove further restrictions later this year. We are very much looking forward to the day that we can have a full sanctuary filled with singing in praise and worship. In the meantime, let's continue to worship in the ways we are able!

# CHILDREN'S ENRICHMENT

Christian Education

	<p>New books are now available in the Children's Library. They include topics about Easter, Spiritual Disciplines, Dementia, and Peace.</p> 	
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# JOIN THE QUEST!

Christian Education



## Will you join our quest for God's Great Light?

Vacation Bible School details are being prayerfully considered. To be a part of the planning and decision process, join our monthly Christian Education Zoom Meetings. Also feel free to send your commitment and/or comments to Jeannine Scott.

For more information on the 2021 theme: <https://www.cokesburyvbs.com/theme/discovery-on-adventure-island>



# ADULT STUDENT PRACTICE

Christian Education

During Lent, the Sunday morning class and Pastor Chris's sermons explored some of the practices that people over the centuries have found very helpful as they seek to learn from Jesus and build habits that help us pay attention to the life of God. What new habits have you started to build?

A brief review:

## **Jesus is teacher**

- ◇ Jesus' words are neither dogma nor law; they are essentially subversive of established arrangements and ways of thinking.
- ◇ They are "spirit and life" and invade our "real" world with a reality even more real than it is.

## **Study — intentional learning**

- ◇ Be open and attentive to God, all the time.
- ◇ Human knowledge is inherently approximate.
- ◇ Creating and sharing new concepts is hard — but that's what stories are for.
- ◇ Humility in the face of truth is always appropriate.
- ◇ Lectio Divina and meditation

## **Prayer — it's our very human response to being touched by God.**

- ◇ Adoration — delighting in God
- ◇ Confession — agreeing with God about our reality
- ◇ Thanksgiving — acknowledging God's provision
- ◇ Supplication — seeking particulars in God's grace
- ◇ Praying the hours - patterned habit of prayer times

## **Remembering**

- ◇ Memorizing scripture — build God's patterns into our wiring
- ◇ Journaling — reinforces learning, aids recall of former insights
- ◇ Examen — regular review and taking stock with God





## Letting go — to intentionally abide in Christ and clarify perspective

- ◇ Fasting — to sort out and embody God’s self-giving nature
- ◇ Sabbath — resting, finding refreshment off the squirrel cage
- ◇ Silence and solitude — listen past the noise, internal and external

## Engagement actions

- ◇ Sacrificial service — “Here I am Lord, send me” to the need of others
- ◇ Worship — deliberate attending to the awesome worthiness of God
- ◇ Encouraging others, being grace to others

Charlie Reece

*Adult Sunday School meets Sundays at 11 a.m. via Zoom.  
Please check our Facebook page for the link. All are welcome to join!*

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# KIRKWOOD SILVER

Congregational Care

KirkWood Silver offers fellowship gatherings for KirkWood seniors and friends. Long-timers and new-comers to KirkWood are heartily welcomed!

It’s a go for our BYOL Parking Lot Picnic. The date is **Thursday, April 22, 11:30 a.m.** We’ll circle up our chairs and enjoy some long overdue fellowship with one another.

Bring your lunch, beverage, chair, mask, and a big smile. (That’s your ticket!)

Also, bring ideas! We’d really like to have some suggestions of other events we might be able to offer in the future.

You don’t need to sign up for this event, but call or email me (757-868-8651 or wandjbirch@verizon.net) if you have questions.



Wanda Birch



# BLOOD DRIVE UPDATE

Outreach

The next Kirkwood Blood Drive is scheduled for **Thursday, May 20, 2-7 p.m. in the fellowship hall.** As of Kronicle time, we are still unsure if we will be able to provide a meal at our drive. Please watch the bulletin and May Kronicle for updates. We are hopeful that we will be able to resume the meals in 2021.



All necessary COVID protocols will be adhered to. Donors can schedule their appointments by going on line to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org), sponsor code KirkwoodPC. All donors are encouraged to complete the RAPIDPASS on the day of the drive. RAPID PASS lets you do the prescreen process from your laptop, desktop computer or cell phone and can save you as much as 15-20 minutes when you get to the drive. The Red Cross will send a link to your email the day of the drive.

If you have questions or would like to inquire as to how you can help at upcoming drives, please contact Cathy Hudgins, 757-869-2645 or [hudgepudge@aol.com](mailto:hudgepudge@aol.com). If you need assistance making your appointment, contact Cathy.

There is an urgent need for all types of blood now and always. Please prayerfully consider coming out and donating this lifesaving need.

**2021 DATES: May 20, August 19, and November 18.** Please mark your calendars.

# MANY, MANY WAYS TO SUPPORT KIRKWOOD

Stewardship

The financial well-being of KirkWood is something we need to think about year-round, not just during pledge season or our annual budget time. We support KirkWood with our time, talent, and treasure because we are taking care of each other, our church, and the world. What an important thing to do with joy in our hearts!





There are many ways to support KirkWood with your treasure or financial gifts.

- ◇ The KirkWood website ([www.kirkwoodpcusa.org](http://www.kirkwoodpcusa.org)) now has a button to securely donate online using your credit card. Check it out — you can specify if you want to designate your gift (e.g., flowers, HOPE offering, general fund, etc.).
- ◇ You can mail checks to the church office at 1209 Hampton Highway, Yorktown, VA 23693.
- ◇ You can give shares of stock to KirkWood. This is especially beneficial if the shares have appreciated in value because the donor doesn't pay capital gains tax on the appreciated value and KirkWood benefits from the appreciated value. The church office can provide instructions on how to transfer the shares to KirkWood's brokerage account.
- ◇ You can contribute directly to KirkWood from your traditional or inherited IRA. A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD for short) allows individuals who are at least age 70½ to direct all or part of an IRA distribution directly to KirkWood.

You can request a distribution, up to \$100,000, from your IRA made payable to KirkWood without any additional tax consequences. Keep in mind that when you contribute directly from your IRA to KirkWood, you cannot take a charitable deduction for the QCD, but for many it could provide a better tax benefit.

- ◇ Bequests are another way to provide for KirkWood. A bequest is a financial term describing the act of giving assets such as stocks, bonds, and cash, to an organization, through the provisions of a will or an estate plan.

A conversation with your investment and/or tax professional may be helpful in determining if any of these strategies are beneficial in your financial situation.

We are all blessed by God's love and grace, and freely sharing our worldly treasure brings us closer to God.

In the March Kronicle there was an announcement about a spring survey on "Stewardship in the time of COVID." At this time, conduct of a survey is no longer planned.



# TEAMWORK

Property & Facilities



A special thanks goes out for everyone who came out for the Spring Clean-up last month, including a large group of Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and their families. We were able to spread 25-plus yards of mulch, remove all of the remaining leaves, and weed flower beds. Everyone did a fantastic job of cleaning up the grounds. Because of all of you, the campus will look great for the reopening of in-person services again starting on Easter Sunday.

It's time for the 2021 spring/summer grass mowing season! We are looking for one or two more volunteers to fill additional teams. You would only have to mow three to four times this summer. Or you could sign up as a substitute to fill in if someone else cannot. Please contact Kirk Reno at [h2orenos@gmail.com](mailto:h2orenos@gmail.com) if you are interested.



Another special thanks goes out to all of the 15-plus folks who spent many hours replacing the flooring in the hallways at KirkWood. It looks fantastic! Plus in a time of tight budgets we saved the church over \$10,000 if we were to have paid to have it installed.

Also, if you are interested in joining the P&F committee to help keep the church in good working order, please contact Kirk Reno or Scott Shoun. We meet the first Tuesday each month at 7 p.m. in the back of the Sanctuary.

	<p><b>1 Corinthians 12:14</b></p> <p>“For the body is not one member, but many.”</p>
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