

# KirkWood Kronicle

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

April 2022

## A Message from our Pastor Chris Shearer



KirkWood family,

We're inching toward the climax of Lent 2022, and I thought I'd invest my space in the Kronicle this month passing along three pieces from a Lenten resource produced by the Patmos Abbey – The Order of St. Columba that you can weave into your own spiritual routines for the next few weeks.

### A Lenten Poem by Ruth Burgess, in *“Traveling to Easter with Jesus as our Guide”*

Carrying our cross,  
cherished and forgiven,  
We are traveling home.

Called to be holy,  
called to be happy,  
We are traveling home.

Across deserts,  
over mountains,  
We are traveling home.

God in our hearts,  
God in our lives,  
We are traveling home.



#### **KirkWood Presbyterian Church**

1209 Hampton Highway | Yorktown, VA 23693

Phone: 757-766-0343

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

**Worship:** Sundays, 9:30 a.m., in person and broadcast live via KirkWood's home page and our YouTube channel. On-demand replays are available on YouTube.

**Sunday School:** Sundays 8:30 a.m. (adult) and 11 a.m. (all ages). Nursery care is available. Please visit our website for information on additional resources for individual, family, and group nurturing.

**A Lenten Reflection by Brian Woodcock, in *"Traveling to Easter with Jesus as our Guide"***

Jesus says to His disciples: "Happy are you, needy ones: the kingdom of God is yours.

Happy are you who are hungry: you will be satisfied.

Happy are you who weep now: you will be filled with laughter.

Rejected, insulted, and yet happy are you; be glad and dance with joy."

So we will follow you, O Christ, into the needs of the world, into the truth of our lives, into the pain of our hearts, and into the very presence of God, amen.

**A Lenten Creed, from *"Traveling to Easter with Jesus as our Guide"***

We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God, who knows our names and recognizes our deepest needs.

We believe that Christ is the divine Child of the living God, and that His grace is like living water that can never be exhausted.

We believe in the birthing, renewing, enabling Spirit of God who watches over our welfare as a mother watches over her child.

We believe that God is in the arid desert as well as in green pastures, and that hard times and disciplines are also loving gifts.

We believe that our journey has a purpose and a destination, and that our path leads to a glory we cannot yet imagine.

We believe that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road, and that we are called to love one another as God loves us.

This is our faith and we are humbled to claim it, amen.

On the Lenten journey with you,  
Pastor Chris



## In This Issue

Pastor's Letter	pg. 1-2
Dates	pg. 3
Session Update	pg. 4
Congregational Care	pg. 5, 12
Stewardship	pg. 6-7
Mission	pg. 7, 11
Children's Ministry	pg. 8-9
Outreach	pg. 10
Worship	pg. 11-12



## Special Dates and Upcoming Events

- April 10—Palm/Passion Sunday, H.O.P.E. offering
- April 14—Maundy Thursday Service, 7 p.m.
- April 15—Good Friday (Office Closed)
- April 17—Easter Sunday Services, 6:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.
- April 18—Easter Monday (Office Closed)
- April 27—Administrative Professionals Day



### **Thursday, April 14**

Maundy Thursday Service – 7 p.m.  
Dramatic Reading "In the Garden"  
Communion

### **Sunday, April 17**

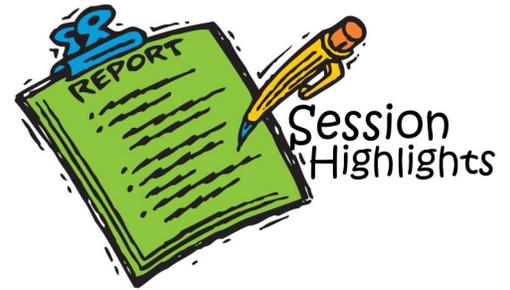
Sunrise Service – 6:30 a.m.  
Pancake Breakfast  
Egg Hunt for All Ages  
Worship – 9:30 a.m.



# Session Update

## Session

- ◆ We will be welcoming eight new members into the KirkWood family on April 24: Kerry and Catherine Gough, Lloyd and Carolyn Horton, Carla Ruehl, Mary Smith, and Keith and Lisa Woodman. We're so glad to have them joining us in the mutual commitment of church membership!
- ◆ A group text was set up between all Session members to facilitate better and quicker communication.
- ◆ Jen Carter will be attending Session meeting for the rest of 2022 as a representative of the Missions Committee, joining Connie Barlow (the committee chairperson).
- ◆ The Property and Facilities Committee will be coming up with a date for an indoor cleanup, in addition to the outdoor cleanup which took place April 2.
- ◆ Along with a few other members of our Presbytery, including our former pastor Michael Condrey, Pastor Chris will be giving a few hours a week to the Yorkminster Presbyterian congregation, specifically in pastoral care and facilitation of listening groups as they weather the recent passing of their own pastor, Marc Mason.
- ◆ Session has begun to work on 2022 goals and objectives, and how to use each "season" of the remaining year well (e.g., post-Easter, summer, early fall, and so on). As soon as these plans take definitive shape, Session will communicate them to the congregation.
- ◆ As part of that, the Property and Facilities Committee is tasked with generating a list of site improvements to be done during 2022, bringing them for Session approval by May 2022.



# Congregational Care Roundup

## Congregational Care

Thanks to everyone who came out for our **Annual Chili Cook-off** on Sunday, March 20. About 40 folks were in attendance who had the opportunity to try around 12 different chilis. Our prize winners were Liz Crow (No-legged Chili), Rich Egyud (Two-legged Chili), and Toni Fisher (Four-legged Chili and Overall Champion). Hats off to all three winners!



**KirkWood Dining Partners:** Please join the Dining Partners on Saturday, April 9, 6 p.m. at the Dock of the Bay restaurant just over the James River Bridge in Carrolton. Point of contact is Cindy Williamson, [cwillic114@gmail.com](mailto:cwillic114@gmail.com).

**KirkWood Silver:** KirkWood Silver had a great pizza luncheon in March and will get together again for lunch at Schlesinger's Steakhouse in Newport News on Thursday, April 21, 11:30 a.m. (see expanded article, page 12). Point of contact is Wanda Birch, [wandjbirch@verizon.net](mailto:wandjbirch@verizon.net).



**"Welcome Back from You Know What" Congregational Picnic:** In mid-May, we're planning to celebrate our return to normalcy (at least, the new normalcy) by having a picnic on the KirkWood lawn after Sunday worship. We are still finalizing a date and will let everyone know once we do. Won't it be nice to enjoy a spring picnic with all our KirkWood friends!

**Meals Support and Visitation:** As always, if you or a loved one needs temporary help with meals for any reason or would like someone from the church to visit you or a family member, please let the church office know. The CC committee is here to assist you.

Unless otherwise noted, the point of contact for these items/events is Lew Goodman, [lewandmary1@gmail.com](mailto:lewandmary1@gmail.com).

# Spotlight on Congregational Care

## Stewardship

During the past 18 months you have been reading in the Kronicle about the many aspects of stewardship as it relates to a Christian and specifically someone who attends KirkWood Church. When we define stewardship as giving GOD our talents, prayers, time, and financial resources, then we understand that all we do in the church is in response to GOD's love.

We have begun a new series about stewardship. During the Sunday morning service on the fourth Sunday of each month, we spotlight a different aspect of stewardship. We will follow up the presentation with an article for the Kronicle about what was talked about the previous month.

Last month Wilma Mitchell talked about Stewardship from the Congregational Care Committee's viewpoint. When we talk about Stewardship, we often think of budgets, tithes and offerings. Yes, money is needed to pay our talented staff, take care of our church property, and help provide funds for missions that begin here at KirkWood and extend worldwide.

**So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.**

**Galatians 6:10**

Stewardship goes beyond money. Stewardship also means using our time and talents to obey Christ Jesus. Our mission statement that we see on our marquee and bulletin sums up Stewardship nicely: "A Christian Community Growing Together, Knowing, Loving and Serving Christ, to make Him known to all."

Congregational Care strives to obey the teachings of our Lord, Christ Jesus. We organize dinners such as the Chili Cook-off and Military Appreciation Dinner, as well as our Annual Church Picnic. Congregational Care—or CC as we like to say—does far more.

Members of CC divide our beautiful sanctuary flowers and take bud vases to our shut-ins and ill or injured members. We have a bread ministry that provides a loaf of home-made bread to folks we haven't seen in church for a while. We provide transportation for folks who need a ride to church or to doctor appointments. CC provides meals for members who are sick or injured.

We reach out to members we miss seeing, especially since COVID, to see how they are doing. CC supports many social functions such as Dining Partners, Men's Fellowship Breakfast, small groups, KirkWood Silver, and receptions. We also set up a bereavement room for families and Pastor Chris to have a quiet place to gather before funerals.

Congregational Care is one of 11 committees that serve KirkWood. We are working on a bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall that provides information about our committees as well as a point of contact. On behalf of all our committees, I would like to invite you to join us to serve KirkWood in order to serve Christ.

Joyce Armstrong, Stewardship Committee Chair

## Helping Neighbors in Need

### Mission

**One Great Hour of Sharing:** We will be collecting for OGHS through April 17. OGHS supports three different agencies: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, which works with communities as they recover from nature or human disaster; Presbyterian Hunger Program, which takes action to alleviate hunger so all can be fed; and Self-development of People, which invests in communities, responding to their oppression and poverty, and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues.

There are a few different ways to donate: There are fish boxes in the Narthex, and there are envelopes in the pews. You can use the "Donate Now" link on KirkWood's website or through our online giving site at [secure.myvanco.com/L-7213/home](https://secure.myvanco.com/L-7213/home). There is also literature in the Narthex. Every penny will make a difference.

**Food Drive:** We collect non-perishable foods and monies to support St. Luke's pantry the first Sunday of every month.

**"Helping Other People Eat" Offering:** We collect the **H.O.P.E.** offering the second Sunday of every month. Funds are divided between Youth Challenge, Mid-Atlantic Teen Challenge, Menchville House, and our sister church, CPK Mikondo, for their Feeding Program in Congo.



# Lenten Learnings

## Children's Ministry

Each week the children learn a lesson to follow the *Come To Jesus* sermon series. Then, during the Sunday school hour, they have a hands-on application to serve others. Their projects give others the opportunity to feel one step closer to Jesus' love.



**Braiding t-shirts for dog toys**



**Coloring placemats for nursing homes**



**Toiletry kits**



**Chalk for Kindness**

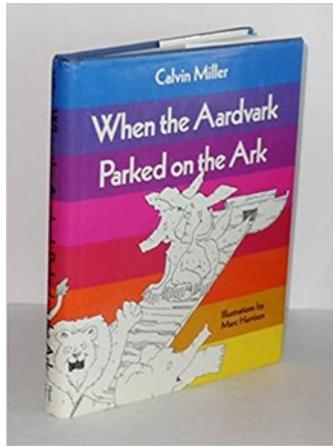
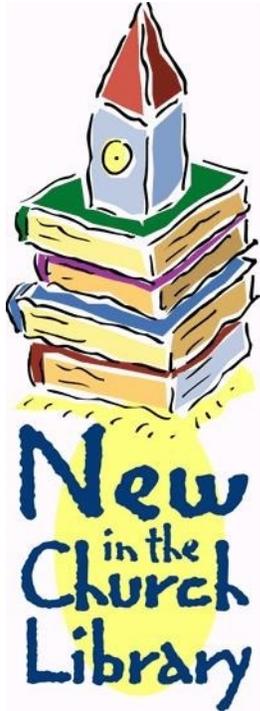


Coming soon: Thank-you kits for nurses and Capes for Kids Hero project!

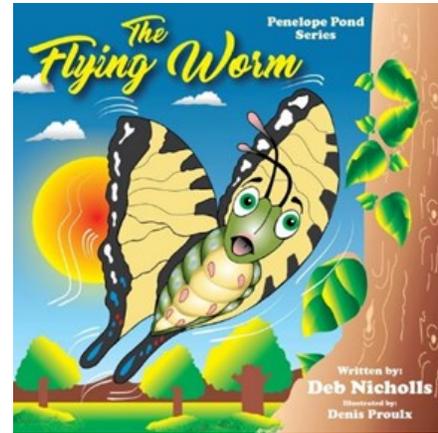
Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them,  
for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Matthew 19:14





*When the Aardvark Parked the Ark and Other Poems* by Calvin Miller is an oldie but goodie with whimsical poems for all ages.



*The Flying Worm* by Deb Nicholls is about a little worm who is frightened of his reflection in the pond, "but his Wonderful Creator helps him to realize that He was right beside him all along."

Mrs. Nicolls is a local author who donated a signed early release copy to our church. We are blessed to view the start of this series and hope you will visit [her website](#) to learn more.



YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN US  
17TH • APRIL

*Outdoor Sunrise Service at 6:30 AM*  
*Pancake breakfast*  
*Easter Worship Service at 9:30 AM*

Before and after the 9:30 a.m. worship service, we will host an egg hunt for all ages.

**Come see the surprise of an empty egg.**

**Fill it in celebration!**

# Reaching our community

## Outreach

The Outreach Committee continues work on making KirkWood more visible to the community through social media, brochures, and signs. Thanks to Jeannine Scott and Albertina Dowe, there are an array of cards at the Visitor Center in the Narthex for members to use to invite neighbors and friends to KirkWood.

We have integrated Outreach into our mission work by taking a KirkWood bag of information to families we help with furniture moves and projects. Thanks to Gerry LaBarre, we have sent, and will continue to send, note cards to all of these families letting them know we are praying for them and thinking of them.

Pastor Chris has met with several families that plan to join the KirkWood community. These families will be introduced at the worship service the Sunday after Easter.



Invite a Neighbor to Church

Speaking of Easter, this is a great time to invite neighbors and friends to KirkWood for one or more of our Easter events. We all know that Easter is a time when folks think about re-engaging with God. KirkWood has a wonderful sunrise service on Easter followed by a pancake breakfast and Easter Egg hunt. Easter worship service is always a joyous occasion! Use one of the cards at the Visitor Center to invite someone.

Exciting times at KirkWood! Join in to make Christ known to all!

If you have questions about KirkWood's Outreach program, contact

Arba Williamson, 757-344-5588 or [awillia114@aol.com](mailto:awillia114@aol.com)



## Mark your calendars—May blood drive

### Mission

Our next Kirkwood Blood Drive is scheduled for **THURSDAY, May 19, 2-7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall**. As of this date, the Red Cross is requiring masks for all donors, regardless of vaccination status. In light of recent loosening of restrictions, this may change by drive time. We will let you know. We will be discussing when we will be comfortable bringing the offering of a meal back. We have our fingers crossed for August if the downward trends continue. Please be on the lookout for updates on this.



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 RAPID PASS on the day of the drive. RAPID PASS lets you do the prescreen process from your laptop, desk top 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). **I am looking for a couple of volunteers to help with registration and in the canteen during the drive.** 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. Remaining 2022 dates (all Thursdays) are August 18 and November 17. Please mark your calendar.

## Usher team is growing

### Worship

Spring has sprung and the worst of COVID is hopefully in the rearview mirror. A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated group of ushers that greeted folks on Sundays, even during the toughest days of COVID.

Thank you, ushers!



Now we have a new opportunity to grow our usher teams as KirkWood has fully opened up and worship is filling up. If you have ushered before COVID hit and would like to come back to usher, sign up. If you would like to try something new and find a great way to meet new folks and visit with old friends, sign up to be an usher.

We will soon be developing usher teams for May – August. If you would like to help with our existing group of fabulous ushers, contact Bruce Knight at 757-303-4252 or email him at [bdknight03@hotmail.com](mailto:bdknight03@hotmail.com). If interested, the deadline is April 10.

## Busy spring planned for KirkWood Silver!

### Congregational Care



What an interesting and fun time KirkWood Silver folks had with our pastor at the Pastor and Pizza Luncheon on March 17. Pastor Chris fielded all sorts of questions that helped us know him and his family better. We appreciate the time he spent with us. We also enjoyed some good St. Patrick's Day shenanigans!

- ◆ April's KWS event will be lunch together on Thursday, April 21, at Schlesinger's in Port Warwick at 11:30. The van will transport anyone who would prefer not to drive. Please let us know if you'll join us by signing up in the Narthex beginning April 3, or by emailing Jim and Wanda Birch, [wandjbirch@verizon.net](mailto:wandjbirch@verizon.net). The restaurant's address is 1106 William Styron Square, Newport News.
- ◆ Miniature Golf on Route 17 in Grafton at Play A Round is the *tentative* plan for May 19. Watch for details in the next Kronicle.
- ◆ On Saturday, June 18, we plan to attend the matinee performance of a modern version of *Aida* performed by the Williamsburg Players on Hubbard Lane, Williamsburg. Music and lyrics for this "classic story of love, heartbreak, and the resilience of the human spirit" are by **Elton John** and **Tim Rice**. We have a block of 20 tickets, which are available for \$15 each, payable to Gloria Griffin. *Please note: masks are required to be worn in the building.*

**Sign up in the Narthex, or contact Gloria at 757-719-0995, [gloriagriffin@cox.net](mailto:gloriagriffin@cox.net).**