

KirkWood Kronicle

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

Dec. 2022/Jan. 2023



KirkWood Family,

This month, per a conversation with Joyce Armstrong (our Stewardship Committee chair), I want to put into writing what I shared about The Blessing Fund during the worship service on Sunday morning, November 27. At the very least, this way you'll have, in print, a concise summary of what it's for, how it works, and how money flows both into and out of it.

Name: What used to be called The Pastor's Fund is now dubbed The Blessing Fund. Why the shift? The former label emphasized who oversaw the account, while the latter puts the focus on what we hope to do with it.

How Is It Used?: There are four ways this money gets used, with a particular priority being put on the second—

- 1) We use Blessing Fund money to help those in the community who reach out to the church for financial assistance. As we respond to these requests, we tap into and are guided by some principles we've picked up from leading poverty empowerment/aid ministries (like When Helping Hurts):
 - a. A first request for help from any one person or family unit will be granted usually, especially because most are a critical or emergency need. The person(s) receiving the assistance are informed that we typically only help one family unit one time each year from The Blessing Fund; of course, exceptions can be made.



KirkWood Presbyterian Church

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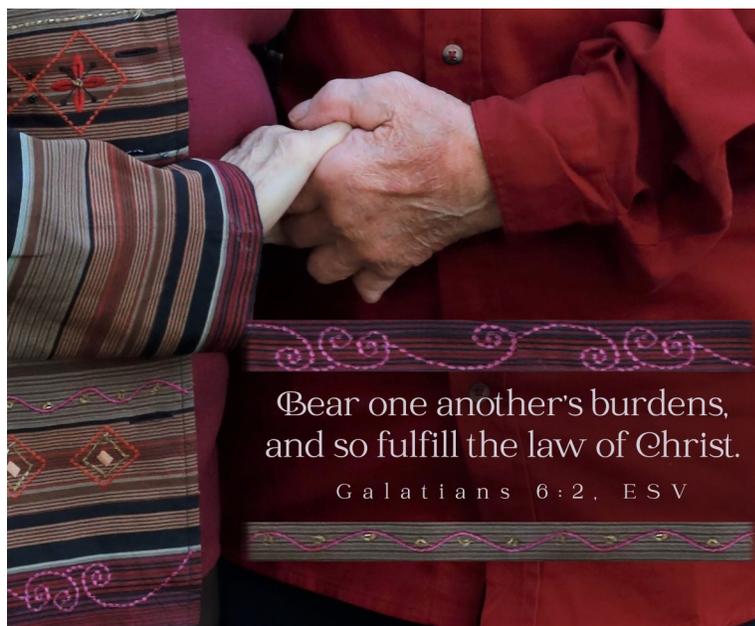
Worship: Sundays, 9:30 a.m., in person and broadcast live via KirkWood's home page and our YouTube channel. On-demand replays are available on YouTube.

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.



- b. Upon receiving a second request for assistance from any one party, we may or may not grant that request, but, more importantly, will refer them to an area non-profit that specializes in helping the impoverished work toward to sustainability and stability (THRIVE Peninsula—check them out: [Homeless Prevention | THRIVE Peninsula | United States](#)).
- c. We very rarely help any one party more than twice. We have limited funds available and need to manage them judiciously, but we also want to avoid creating any unintended expectation or codependency.

2) We use The Blessing Fund to subsidize you as you seek to “love your neighbors” well. As you become aware of needs in your little part of the world (be it in your neighborhood, workplace, social circle, church small group, or wherever), we want you to bring them to the attention of the church office and/or Pastor Chris. We put a major emphasis on using Blessing Fund money to help you offer assistance to others that you personally may not be able to give to.



Bear one another's burdens,
and so fulfill the law of Christ.

GALATIANS 6:2, ESV

- 3) Every so often, we use Blessing Fund money to kickstart neighborly love by those who call KirkWood home. For example, the last two Advents we’ve handed out prepaid Visa cards to the congregation, asking you to use them to show Christmas love to someone in your neck of the woods. You can expect that we’ll continue to work at finding creative ways to use some of the Blessing Fund balance to encourage you to love others well.
- 4) When the opportunity arises, we’ll use some of The Blessing Fund to underwrite small sympathy, appreciation, gratitude, or encouragement gifts for folks within or associated with the KirkWood family.

How Is It Funded?: First, it’s important to know how it’s NOT funded—no General Fund giving goes into The Blessing Fund. Its funding comes from two primary sources: a) Missions Committee is faithful to contribute to it on occasion, e.g., with portions of The Pumpkin Patch





proceeds and The Christmas Offering, and b) through your own donations over and above your pledges to the General Fund. One last tidbit might give some needed context and prove insightful for you: Between the start of 2021 and the midpoint of 2022, the expenditures from The Blessing Fund far exceeded the flow of money into it, so much so that between June and October 2022, ending with an infusion from the Pumpkin Patch, we had to be very cautious with how we used the Fund.

Thank you for your continuing generosity to The Blessing Fund! Your gifts and donations over the course of 2023 will ensure we can continue to use it often and well!

~ Pastor Chris



Christmas Worship Schedule

Sunday, December 11th
9:30 a.m. "The Joy of Christmas"

Saturday, December 24th - Christmas Eve Services
5:00 p.m. Family Candlelight and Communion
11:00 p.m. Candlelight and Communion



In This Issue

Pastor's Letter	pg. 1-3
Dates	pg. 4
Session Update	pg. 4
Congregational Care	pg. 5
Stewardship	pg. 5-6
Outreach	pg. 7
Trip to Holy Land	pg. 7-8
Blood Drive	pg. 8
Linus Group	pg. 9
KirkWood Silver	pg. 9
Christian Education	pg. 10-12



DECEMBER & JANUARY

Special Dates and Upcoming Events

- December 11 – The Joy of Christmas, H.O.P.E. Offering, Christmas Offering, Dining Partners Brunch
- December 15 – PORT (Hidenwood Presbyterian Church)
- December 21 – 1st Day of Winter
- December 24 – Christmas Eve Services at 5 p.m. and 11 p.m.
- December 25 – 9:30 a.m. Christmas Day Worship ([Streaming Only](#)) (Church office closed 12/23 – 12/26)
- January 1 – New Year's Day (Church office closed 12/30 – 1/2), Food Pantry Collection
- January 3 – PORT (Temple Baptist Church)
- January 6 – Epiphany
- January 8 – H.O.P.E. Offering
- January 16 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- January 28 – Chili Cook-Off

Session Update

Session

November Meeting Summary:

- ◇ Session reviewed the recent Stewardship season, and also took a look at the initial pledging totals.
- ◇ Session prepped for the 2023 budget discussion.
- ◇ Technology previewed a new website resource for Session, one that has been rolled out to the congregation in December.
- ◇ Session approved a new class to start at KW in early 2023 (details pending).
- ◇ Session approved the Christmas offering for Sunday, December 11.
- ◇ Session looked ahead and set up new elder ordination/installation and its early 2023 retreat.
- ◇ Session received a report on the latest PEVA meeting from Bruce Knight.



Congregational Care Round-up

Congregational Care

Annual Chili Cook-off—Save the Date: Our chili cook-off for 2023 will be held at 6 p.m. on Saturday, January 28. (Those submitting chili will need to be there by 5 p.m. for judging.) We're planning a county fair theme to include a "Propel a Pie at the Pastor" event. Some other activities under consideration are a Cake Walk, Pepper Sauce Eating Contest, Hog Callin' Contest, Best "Hayseed" Outfit, and for the kids, Apple Bobbin', Face Painting/Temporary Tats, and a DIY Spinner Prize Wheel. Please plan to join us for a "Yee Haw" good time!



KirkWood Dining Partners: The Dining Partners will be meeting for lunch at Sweet Dreams Bakery Bar & Bistro on Sunday, December 11, at 12 p.m. Look for information on our January event in upcoming bulletins and email. The point of contact is Cindy Williamson, cwillic114@gmail.com.

KirkWood Silver: The Silver folks will attend "A Christmas Carol" performed by the Williamsburg Players on Saturday, December 10, at 2 p.m. In January, Silver will be celebrating "Everybody's Birthday" with soup and salad from Olive Garden. The point of contact is Wanda Birch, wandjbirch@verizon.net.

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.

The Giving Path

Stewardship

As we wrap up this season of Commitment and complete our study of Generosity, also referred to as *Love in Action*, there are a lot of ways to help support the mission and ministries of KirkWood Presbyterian Church. The primary way is to support the budget with tithes and offerings. Through your contributions, we are able to worship God each Sunday morning, visit at the hospital and nursing homes, reach out with food and support to the most vulnerable on





the Peninsula and around the world, and teach children from our congregation. We also partner with several local agencies like PORT, York-Poquoson Social Services, LINK and others to build wheelchair ramps, feed people and reach out to youth at risk.

Stewardship is directly linked to our journey of discipleship. How we use our resources is primarily a spiritual issue, not a financial one. The quality of that decision is determined by the spiritual condition of our hearts.

What is the Giving Path? It is an opportunity to discover the joy of growing in your relationship with God as you experience living generously.

Why move along the Giving Path? It is God's intention that we grow more generous and take bigger steps in our giving as we become more aware of how richly God has blessed us.

First Time Giver: Begin to give. Any amount and frequency, but begin to understand the power and reward from giving to the church.

Intentional Giver: Plan what percentage of income to give for a year, what is comfortable for you and your family in your current situation.

Growing Giver: Increase your percentage of giving, moving toward a tithe.

Tither: Begin to give a tithe (10% of income). The word "tithe" simply means 10 percent. Well, 10 percent of what? The word "tithe" is merely a method of calculating the minimum of your gross income that is to be returned to God.

Extravagant Giver: Giving beyond the tithe. In addition to any pledged amount, you can designate money for one of many funds in the memo line or in the online form. Examples of the most often used funds are:

- The Blessing Fund (any amount)—to help others meet financial emergencies or other needs. This fund is administered by Pastor Chris.
- Property and Facilities Fund (any amount)—to maintain and upgrade the building, grounds, and signage.
- Music Ministry (any amount)—to purchase music and other supplies for the choirs and Worship Band.
- Flower Ministry (\$35 per week).

Our online giving portal is one way to enable people to give their offering intentionally, proportionally, and faithfully all year long. You can set up a direct debit program that allows you to support your church through an automatic monthly withdrawal from your bank account or create a recurring (monthly, weekly, etc.) credit card charge. Using the online portal helps KirkWood by: increasing the regularity of offerings, reducing the seasonal low giving periods, and is convenient for those worshipping virtually.

Outreach Committee News—December 2022

Outreach



KirkWood continues to have visitors every week. Thanks to all for being such a welcoming congregation. If you see visitors, make sure to direct them to the Visitor Center to get some KirkWood information.

Advent and the Christmas season have arrived! This is always a special time at KirkWood with Advent candles and stories, special music, children's choir, carols, and the Christmas Eve services. What a wonderful and joyous time to invite a friend or neighbor to attend or watch on livestream. A simple ask can have a profound impact on a life. Let the Holy Spirit spur you to action and "make Him known to all."

Visit the Holy Land

Congregational Care

KirkWood's trip to Israel with Pilgrim Tours is up and running. There are brochures in the Narthex; please take one to review and share with others. This trip is open to anyone at KirkWood, including family and friends. Below is the link to KirkWood's website with Pilgrim Tours (link below). You can register online, download a PDF, or use the registration form included with the brochure. The itinerary is also on the website:

<https://www.pilgrimtours.com/groups/kirkwoodpresbyterianchurch2023.htm>





Dates of the trip are: May 30-June 8 with an add-on to Petra returning on June 10. The brochure and web page have all the relevant information and dates regarding payment due dates, cancellation policies and more. The Israel-only trip cost is \$4,099, and the extension to Jordan is \$830.

Please talk with Pastor Chris regarding financial assistance if you really want to go but can't afford the full amount. This trip promises to be an inspirational and rewarding opportunity to travel with Pastor Chris and your KirkWood family. Please direct any questions to Cindy Williamson (cwillic114@gmail.com) or Pastor Chris (pastorchriskwpc@gmail.com).

Blood Drive Update

Outreach

Our final 2022 Red Cross Blood Drive was held at the church on Thursday, November 17. We had 35 presenting donors and were able to collect 37 pints of blood. We collected three double red (two units in one donation) and only had two deferrals (unable to give for various reasons).

This community is so amazing. Thank you to all those that come out to donate or volunteer their time to help make our drives run so smoothly and successfully. The wonderful cooks and bakers of KirkWood fed our donors delicious soups, bread, and sweets. Thank you to Donna Craig for coordinating the meals during the drives.

We will be looking for volunteers to donate part of the meal, monetary donations to offset the costs of supplies, or a homemade dessert for upcoming drives.

If you would like to make your appointment for the February drive, the drive is open for scheduling. www.redcrossblood.org, sponsor code KIRKWOODPC. If you have questions, need assistance making your appointment, or would like to know how you can help during future drives, please contact Cathy Hudgins, hudgepudge@aol.com.

2023 Drive Dates

**Please Mark
Your Calendars**

February 16

May 18

August 17

November 16

**All Thursdays from
2-7 p.m. in the
Fellowship Hall**



Linus Group Shares Warmth & Care

Mission

On November 18, hats and scarves were taken to the Salvation Army. The hats and scarves were knitted or crocheted by the Linus Group and friends. There were 105 hats and 14 headbands, 27 scarves with matching hats, and 23 scarves.



Hats



Scarves

KirkWood Silver

Congregational Care

KirkWood Silver has great plans for the next several months! Here's what's on our calendar:

December 10—REMINDER: *"A Christmas Carol,"* 200 Hubbard Lane, Williamsburg. Curtain time is 2 p.m. All 20 tickets were spoken for, plus four additional tickets were purchased from the theater. Please pay Gloria Griffin \$15 per ticket if you haven't already. The van is available and will leave at 1 p.m.

January 19, 11:30 a.m.: Everybody's Birthday Celebration with Chris Shearer as our guest. This will be a soup luncheon, catered from Olive Garden. Watch the Bulletin in late December and early January for more info.

February 16: A visit to the Torggler Fine Arts Center at Christopher Newport University with lunch at the Warwick Restaurant across the street from CNU. Watch for more details in January.

Everyone have the most joy-filled Christmas ever! *"For God so loved the world...."*



Christian Ed Happenings

Christian Education

TEEN SUNDAY SCHEDULE

December:

- Sunday School – 12/18, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Youth Group – Board Games & Pizza – 12/11, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.)

Upcoming Dates:

Sunday School

- January – 1/8, 1/22
- February – 2/5, 2/19

All events are in the upstairs youth room unless specified otherwise.

Contact either Christine Pregler or Rachel Fisher for more details.

CHILDREN SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Upcoming Dates:

- **December 11** – Glory time and Joyful Noise Choir will be canceled to enjoy and celebrate the service. Sunday School will still meet at 11 a.m.
- **December 18** – All activities as normal.
- **Saturday, December 24** – 5 p.m. Worship Service.
- **December 25** – Online worship only. See bulletin for updated information.
- **January 1** – Worship and Glory time only.
- **January 8** – All activities as normal.

Thank you for your flexibility and understanding during this holiday season. Nursery will be open and streaming the service. Contact Jeannine Scott for more details.





ADVENT LESSONS



Sunday School for all ages

The theme for December is *Go Tell* and will demonstrate to us a practice of sharing a gift in love. Lessons are grounded in the prophecy and events surrounding the birth of Jesus.

Interactive Advent Living Room

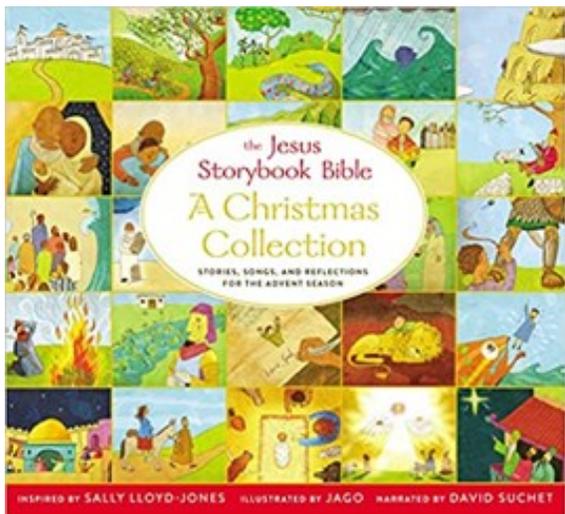
Visit <https://kirkwoodpcusa.org/> and click on various items in the scene to be taken to stories, devotions, recipes, songs, crafts, and more. Each week will be a new adventure.



Learning at Home

Choose to follow along with the "Jesus Storybook Bible" or search for an option perfectly suited to your interests.

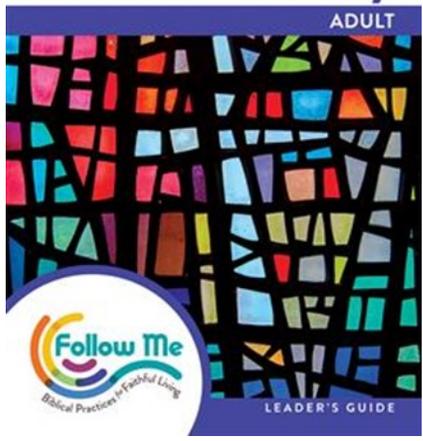
<https://pages.faithgateway.com/jesus-storybook-bible-advent-calendar-printable-free-registration/>





NEW YEAR, NEW OPPORTUNITIES.

Honor God's Diversity



Honor God's Diversity

Join in the Sunday School discussion to go beyond just accepting diversity and honor it by seeing those who are marginalized and affirming them.

We are challenged to look beyond the comfort of uniformity to identify the variety of life God gives.

Small Groups

Are you looking to start the new year meeting new people, sharing prayer concerns, and focusing on a topic of interest?

Unite for Parents will be starting again in January. Look for information in an email from Jeannine.



Devotionals Available

Libraries are available in Room 2 (aka Glory Room) and in Room 5. Find a devotional or book to borrow.

New to the children's library are "How Great is Our God" and "Indescribable." Both books by Louie Giglio are devotionals about God and Science.

