

# KirkWood Kronicle

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

February 2023



KirkWood Family,

*As we prepare to leave January and the beginning of a new year, here's a great reminder about encountering God's grace in 2023...and that very often real change can be both gradual and surprising.*

## New Year, Old Me

by Emily C. Heath |

Senior Pastor of The Congregational Church in Exeter, NH

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven..." – Ecclesiastes 3:1

Today every website, magazine, and newspaper is selling January 1st-dated potential with headlines like "New Year, New You" or "Ten Ways to Lose Weight/Get Rich/Find Love/Be the Best Person Ever in 2016." And, hey, if that kind of inspiration works for you, more power to you. Go with it. May 2023 be your best year ever.

But New Year's Day, and the companion resolution-making process, has never worked for me. I've made resolutions but, truth be told, I've never really felt all that motivated to keep them. I used to think that was a character flaw. Now I think that maybe resolutions tied to the date of January 1st just aren't right for me.

The best things in my life have come to me gradually. I didn't become a Christian by "making a decision for Christ." I became one because gradually I was drawn by the story of Christ and I



## **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.



# Thoughts From Our Pastor, continued

wanted to follow him. I can't tell you the date that happened, but I'm pretty sure it wasn't January 1st. It wasn't any one day.

The thing about God's grace, and the changes that it causes us to make, is that it rarely comes on our own schedules. My guess is that it even less rarely comes on a date that has rather arbitrarily, at this place and this time in the whole of history, come to be the start of a new year.

If something big happens in my life this year, it will come because of God's grace, and it will likely come some random unexpected time, maybe all at once, or maybe little by little.

So, this year I'm not making resolutions. I've decided I don't want a "new year, new me." Really, it's taken a lifetime to get to this "me," and I'm pretty happy with who I am and all the little graces that have made me, me. My hope is next year at this time I'll be pretty happy to be me, too.

This year I'm going to do something different. I'm going to list the things that I randomly started doing at some point this year that I've decided to keep doing. They've made my year better.

Prayer - O God, that you for making us the people who we are today. Amen.

*Warmly,*

*Pastor Chris*





## In This Issue

Pastor's Letter	pg. 1-2
Dates	pg. 3
Christian Education	pg. 3, 9-10
Congregational Care	pg. 4-5
Outreach	pg. 6
Worship	pg. 8
Mission	pg. 7 & 11
KirkWood Silver	pg. 10



### Special Dates and Upcoming Events

February 1	PORT (All Generations Church)
February 3-4	KirkWood Croppers (Scrapbooking)
February 5	Food Pantry Collection
February 11	KirkWood Walking Group (Matteson Trail)
February 12	HOPE Offering Collection (Helping Other People Eat)
February 16	Red Cross Blood Drive
February 20	President's Day (Church Office Closed)



Complement the information you learn in your Sunday School class with the following ideas you can do on other days of the week from the Follow Me "Practicing the Practice" guide.

- ♦ Restaurant or recipe rotation: break out of the food rut of eating the same things over and over by researching ethnic and cultural groups and trying something new.
- ♦ Take a diversity walk: look at differences in architecture, signs, and people. Use a translation app to hear different languages as you walk.
- ♦ Letter to the Editor: try to find a news article about a justice issue that your family is passionate about. If you find one, write a thank you to the editor. If you don't, ask the editor to include one in their coverage.



# Congregational Care Round-up

Update

**KirkWood Dining Partners:** The Dining Partners will be meeting on February 18 at a location and time to be announced. Stay tuned for details. POC is Cindy Williamson.

**KirkWood Silver:** Please see detailed information about our upcoming events on the next page.

**Pastor's Brunch:** Pastor Chris will be hosting his first brunch of 2023 on February 19 after the worship service. Chris will announce where and when to sign up.

**Other Upcoming Events:** CC is planning some events for enjoyment and fellowship including Family Bowling (February or July), Spring Fling Potluck (March), Easter breakfast after Sunrise Service (April), Craft Fair in conjunction with Outreach Committee (May), and Peninsula Pilots baseball game (June). If there is an event or activity you'd like us to take on, please let us know!

**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.



## KirkWood Silver Gets Artsy!

**February:** KirkWood Silver plans to visit the Torrgler Fine Arts Center at Christopher Newport University on Thursday, February 16. We will meet at the Fine Arts Center at 11:20. Parking is available across the driveway from the entrance to the Arts Center.

We will have a guided tour of the current Ansel Adams exhibit and other works on display. The lighting in the lobby is amazing! Don't forget to look up!

Following our tour, we will have lunch at the Warwick Restaurant, which is just across Warwick Blvd. from CNU. We hope our dear friend, Jim Gouge, will be able to join us for lunch! Sign up in the Narthex between January 29 and February 12 to participate in this interesting and rewarding KWS event. If you would like to take the van, please indicate that on the sign-up sheet. Contact Jim or Wanda Birch at 757-868-8651, or [wandjbirch@verizon.net](mailto:wandjbirch@verizon.net) for further information.

**Coming Up in March:** Looking ahead, KirkWood Silver will get together on March 16 for a Lenten luncheon and informal conversation with Pastor Chris Shearer.

### WANTED: WOMEN INTERESTED IN A WOMEN'S SMALL GROUP



A women's Bible study small group will begin this month via Zoom. Why Zoom? Many female members have reached out and are interested in attending, but have night driving limitations, small children to get into bed, or their distance from the church is significant. All would enjoy a time for women to support each other, to laugh, cry, study the word, and be lifted! The goal is to meet two Thursdays a month via Zoom with a quarterly face to face get together on a Sunday afternoon for a casual brunch. We will be using a hybrid of video, book, online studies, and other materials to help us along the way! **February Meeting Dates: 2/2 & 2/16**

If this is of interest to you, please contact Christine Pregler via email at [preglerweims@gmail.com](mailto:preglerweims@gmail.com) and she will add you to the list.



# Outreach Committee

## Update

KirkWood's **Outreach Ministry** had a successful 2022! KirkWood members again demonstrated at Sunday worship, at mission projects & events, and in their daily lives what a loving and open Christian community looks like.

The Outreach Committee was blessed with 13 members in 2022. Members include:

Jeannine Scott	Lew Goodman	Jan Knight	
Bruce Knight	April Mershon	Gerry LaBarre	Connie Barlow
Carla Ruehl	June Ritter	Cindy Heldreth	Toni Fisher
Ruth Marie Cason	Arba Williamson (Chair)		



The Outreach Team can always use new members. You don't have to be asked to join. Jump in to help make Christ known to all!

KirkWood had 33 visiting families in 2022. All received an email from the pastor and were added to our Monday Memo and Midweek Minute email lists. We would like to increase that number for 2023 and YOU can help! You don't have to evangelize on the street corner, but here are some simple actions:

- ♦ Let friends and neighbors know about KirkWood's loving community.
- ♦ Wear your KirkWood shirt around town and not just at KirkWood events.
- ♦ Volunteer for a Mission event and show your loving spirit to others.
- ♦ Ask someone to attend a KirkWood event.

As the signs on the driveway state as we leave KirkWood we are "Entering the Mission Field".





# Blood Drive Update, Volunteers Needed

## Mission

Our first 2023, Kirkwood Blood Drive is scheduled for **THURSDAY, February 16, from 2-7 in the Fellowship Hall.** 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, 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, need assistance making your appointment, 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). **She is looking for a couple of volunteers to help with registration and in the canteen during the drive.** There is an urgent need for all types of blood now and always. Please prayerfully consider coming out and donating to meet this lifesaving need.

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

**Donna Craig will be coordinating the food for our drives. If you would like to donate food or monetary donations, to help defray the cost, contact Donna ([donnacraig029@gmail.com](mailto:donnacraig029@gmail.com))**



**The remaining 2023 Dates: May 18; August 17, and November 16. All from 2:00-7:00 pm. Please mark your calendars. Cards with these dates can be found in the Narthex.**





# Sermon Series Now Online

## Worship

**KirkWood's Website** has a new resource available. Each sermon series is now summarized on its own page. There are links to each sermon, the content of each related Monday Memo, and a summary of each Monday Memo. Is there someone you think would benefit from the series? Please share some series that you find interesting with friends, neighbors, and even family members. At the bottom of each series are buttons that allow you to easily share the series by email or on Facebook.

To access these resources, at the top-right of the web site, hover over "SERMONS", then click on "Sermon Series Index". This will pull up a list of all the series since Fall 2020 (Christianity in the Time of Covid.) Then click on the image or name of the series you want to explore further.

Take some time to review some of the series that struck you, and remind yourself of what you heard and read. It may just reawaken something in you.

Video Series	Description
	Advent 2022
	In the Beginning A four week series on the creation story
	Becoming Five week series on the transformation of God's people.
	It's Up to You Nine week series addressing questions from the KirkWood family.
	Love Big Five week series exploring the multiple love relationships that lie at the core of Christianity; that define what it means to be a Christian.
	Come to Jesus Five week series retracing the footsteps of all kinds of people as they came to Jesus
	Fishing with Jonah Four week series looking at an amazing and entertaining story that is Jonah.

**Start your search here!**

## KIRKWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Christian community growing together, knowing, loving, and serving Christ, to make Him known to all

WELCOME

MINISTRIES

NEWS & EVENTS

SERMONS







# Prepare to Study God's Word

## Christian Education

The **February Sunday School Curriculum** (8:30, 11:00 Adult, Children & Teens) focuses on diversity. As we move into this new study, here is what you can prepare for:

***Honor God's Diversity*** (PCUSA Curriculum) January 29, February 5, 12, 19

God calls us to honor diversity that God has created in our world by diving deep beyond just accepting diversity. When we recognize and celebrate the different gifts, abilities, and voices in all creation, we honor the diversity in the world that God has created. God embraces our differences as He created all in the image of His own diversity. Honoring God's diversity helps us see those who are marginalized in our society and affirm them. Once we do this, we can work to bring those vital, diverse voices in from the margins to the center of the work God is doing in the world; to listen and learn from them. In listening to marginalized voices, we can hear the Spirit in its call for all of us to work for liberation while challenging oppression. In *Honor God's Diversity*, we learn to recognize and appreciate diversity as a valuable aspect of God's creation. We are challenged to look beyond the comfort of uniformity to identify the variety of life God gives.

- ♦ 1/29 - Affirm People Who Are Marginalized (Genesis 1-2)
- ♦ 2/5 - Center Voices from the Margins (Matthew 15:21-28)
- ♦ 2/12- Work for Liberation While Challenging Oppression (Numbers 27:1-11; Luke 6:20-31)
- ♦ 2/19 - Use Advantages to Overturn Inequality (Mark 10:17-31, Luke 19:1-10)

**Lent Book Study:** Details Coming Soon!

Books study of "*Seeking God*" by Trevor Hudson will include a pulpit sermon, Sunday school, and small group study. Books will be provided to the congregation and to each small group. If you are interested in your small group participating, please contact Pastor Shearer and he will add your numbers to the book order.

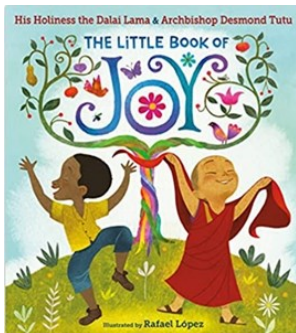




# New Books in the Children's Library

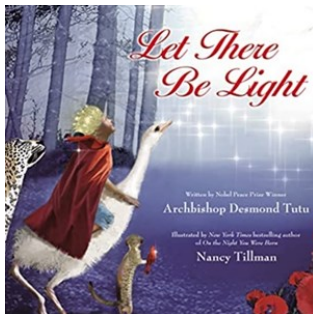
## Christian Education

The following new additions can be found in the Children's Library (Room 2/ Glory Time Room).



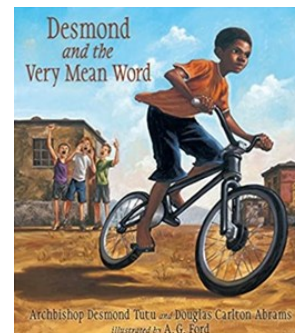
### ***The Little Book of Joy*** by Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu

Find joy in hard times  
and share it with oth-  
ers to make it grow.



### ***Let There Be Light*** by Desmond Tutu

Retelling of the bibli-  
cal story of creation  
with illustrations  
from Nancy Tillman.



### ***Desmond and the Very Mean Word*** by Desmond Tutu

Shows the readers  
how to deal with an-  
gry feelings with  
compassion based  
on a true story.

Parents of KirkWood kids,

We are restarting a small group (called UNITE) to fellowship together.

Be a part of this monthly communion of saints and get to know other  
people who experience struggles, joys, and constant prayer for their  
littles. Join Katie Blanton and Amanda Snell in the Fellowship Hall

(Rm 6) during Sunday School time at 11:00 AM - noon. Nursery is available for those un-  
der 4 years old. Three different age groups of Sunday school classes are available upstairs  
for those in PreK4-12th grade.

Upcoming Dates: February 19    March 19    April 16

If you do not have school aged children, please consider volunteering in the Sunday School  
rooms or nursery during Unite meeting times.





# Remembering our Neighbors' Needs

## Mission

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

**Monthly Offering—"Helping Other People Eat":** 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.

## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Starting Feb 22 and running through Easter (April 9), we will be collecting for OGHS. This program supports three groups: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, which provides relief to those affected by natural disasters; Presbyterian Hunger Program, which provides food to the hungry; and Self Development of People, which resources communities working together to cast off the bonds of poverty and oppression.

**KirkWood Presbyterian Church**  
A Christian Community Growing Together,  
Knowing, Loving, and Serving Christ,  
to make Him known to all



(757) 766-0343  
[www.kirkwoodpcusa.org](http://www.kirkwoodpcusa.org)  
[office@kirkwoodpcusa.org](mailto:office@kirkwoodpcusa.org)

KirkWood Presbyterian Church  
1209 Hampton Hwy.  
Yorktown, VA 23693