

KirkWood Kronicle

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

July/August 2021

A Message from our Pastor Chris Shearer



Since we're spending the first two months of this summer learning from a global leader in what's called "the missional church" (Michael Frost), it might be beneficial to back up and consider some of the basic theology that motivates and undergirds it.

Here's how The Missional Church Network describes two of those biblical foundation stones for an outward, interpersonal, community-oriented Christianity in both its individual and collective expression:

"1. Missional Church is about the missionary nature of God and His Church:

Those in the missional movement recognize both God and the church are intrinsically and principally "missionary" in nature. God is a missionary God who sends a missionary church. In fact, a survey of the term "sending" in its various forms in Scripture reveals the missionary nature of the Triune God, as well as the very essence of the church. The redemptive activity of God, his relationship to the world, and his dealing with mankind is described in Scripture by the word "sending." The word "sending" is the "sum and substance of God's creativity and activity" (Georg F. Vicedom, *The Mission of God*, 9).



KirkWood Presbyterian Church

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Worship (Summer Hours): 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: KirkWood offers fresh resources for individual, family, and group nurturing. Please visit our website for details.

"As the Father has sent me,
I am sending you."

(John 20:21).



Scripture is replete with sending language that speaks to the missionary nature of a Triune God. God the Father sends the Son, and God the Father and the Son sends the Spirit, and God the Father and the Son and the Spirit sends the church. In the Gospel of John alone, nearly forty times we read about Jesus being sent — either from the evangelist or from Jesus' own lips. In the final climatic sending passage in John's Gospel, Jesus sees himself not only as one sent but also as one who is sending: "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you" (John 20:21).

It is important to make clear that the church is a vital part of the missional conversation. However, the church must not be seen simply as an entity that sends missionaries; as admirable as sending and supporting missionary activity might be. Instead, we must recognize that the purpose of the church is derived from the very nature of a sending, missionary God, which in turn compels it to be sent as a missionary people, both individually and collectively.

2. Missional Church is about actively participating in the *missio Dei*, or mission of God:

Many times we wrongly assume that the primary activity of God is in the church, rather than recognizing that God's primary activity is in the world, and the church is God's instrument sent into the world to participate in His redemptive mission.

This key distinction clarifies the difference between a church with a missions program and a missional church. A church with a missions program usually sees missions as one activity alongside many other equally important programs of the church. A missional church, on the other hand, focuses all of its activities around its participation in God's agenda for the world. God's mission must form and inform everything we do. All activities of the church must be catalyzed by and organized around the *missio Dei* (Latin for "the mission of God").

As the sent, missionary people of God, the missional church understands its fundamental purpose as being rooted in God's mission to restore and heal creation and to call people into a reconciled relationship with Himself. It is God's mission that calls the church into existence. In other words, we can no longer see the church as the starting point when thinking about mission. Instead, the church must be seen as the result of God's mission. In the words of South African missiologist David Bosch: "It is not the church which undertakes mission; it is the *missio Dei* which constitutes the church." Or stated in a slightly different manner, "It is not so much that God has a mission for his church in the world, but that God has a church for his mission in the world" (Christopher H. J. Wright 2006).

Warmly, Chris



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Special Dates/Upcoming Events

- July**
- July 4 — Independence Day (Church office closed July 5)
 - July 10 – Food Collection Drive-By
 - July 10 – Memorial Service for Art Alexander (1p.m.)
 - July 15 – KirkWood Silver Ice Cream Party
 - July 17 – Memorial Service for Dick Knowles
 - July 30 – Tailgate/Movie on the Lawn
- August**
- August 7 – Food Collection Drive-By
 - August 19 – Red Cross Blood Drive
 - August 27 – Tailgate/Movie on the Lawn



JUNE SESSION SUMMARY

Session

1. As you've already learned, Session voted to keep pace with the state of Virginia in its approach to COVID: beginning July 1 the fully-vaccinated need not wear masks (but are welcome to, if it makes them feel safer), while we ask the unvaccinated to continue wearing them.
2. Also as you already know, on Sunday, July 4, we'll be combining our two worship services into one for the summer, which will start at 9:30 a.m. On that same Sunday, there will no longer be a limit on congregational singing.
3. Our annual church picnic is slated for September 12.
4. Session approved a Congregational Care initiative to create a lending "Little Library" to be available near the mailbox on campus for congregational and community use.
5. Session continued to work on ideas coming from its spring 2021 retreat, some of which will begin to take shape in late summer and early fall.



Summertime Youth Education

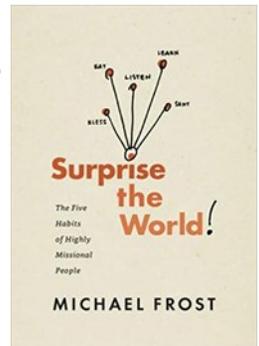
Christian Education



SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Each week the children ages 3 years through 5th grade have the opportunity to join in worship or participate in Sunday School. Nursery is also open and overlaps for those littles that need more playtime and movement.

In July, we will collaborate with the sermon series and do hands-on activities for the *Surprise the World* book. Resources to follow along with us at home are available at www.crossover.org.au.



In August, we are enjoying a taste of VBS on Sunday mornings. Become explorers with us as we *Discover on Adventure Island* and discover how God's light shines on us. Learn and practice how you can reflect that light each day.

URGENT NEED — MEALS FOR VETS

Outreach

KirkWood provides meals for two veterans' homes (five men in each home) every Monday and Thursday. These homes support vets transitioning from homelessness. We need your help.

Please consider assisting in this mission by fixing a casserole for five men. You can sign up in the Narthex, through [Signup Genius](#), or call Gloria at 757-223- 4104/757-719-0995 or Zora at 757-833-6406/757-869-3784 and they will sign you up, answer questions, and arrange for pickup.





AUGUST BLOOD DRIVE

Outreach

The next Kirkwood Blood Drive is scheduled for **Thursday, August 19, from 2-7 p.m. in the fellowship hall.** If donors are vaccinated, they will not be required to wear a mask. All non-vaccinated individuals will still be required to wear a mask. We will be discussing when we will be comfortable bringing the offering of a meal back. Please be on the lookout for updates on this.



Donors can schedule their appointments by going on line to www.redcrossblood.org, sponsor code KirkwoodPC. All donors are encouraged to complete the RAPIDPASS on the day of the drive. RAPIDPASS 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. 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 2021 Blood Drives:
August 19 and November 18.**



CONGRESSIONAL CARE NEWS

Congregational Care

Puzzle/Book Exchange: On Saturday, July 10 from 9-11 a.m., the CC committee will be hosting a book and puzzle exchange in the Kirkwood parking lot in conjunction with the Mission Committee Food Drive. We have many puzzles and an increasing number of books to choose from.



KirkWood Tailgate: On Friday, July 30, from 7-8:30 p.m., the CC committee will be hosting a tailgate get-together in conjunction with KirkWood Movie Night. Please join us in the parking lot for hot dogs, chips, and whatever you'd like to bring to drink. (We'll have water.) We had a great time at our first event this summer with almost 30 folks turning out to enjoy food and fellowship. Please make plans to join us in July.



Brunch at the Fort/Ice Cream Social: The CC Committee will be hosting a potluck brunch at the home of Lew and Mary Goodman on a Saturday morning during the month of August, date to be determined. We will also be hosting a mid-week ice cream social during the month. Stay tuned for details.

Save the Date: Our annual picnic has been scheduled for Sunday, September 12, after our combined worship service. As always, we'll have tents and tables set up, some entertainment for the kids, and hamburgers and hot dogs. Bring a dish to share and be prepared for a good time!

Meals Support: As always, if you or a loved one needs temporary help with meals for any reason, please let the church office know. The CC committee is here to assist you.

Point of contact for these items/events is Lew Goodman.



Mid-Year Contemplation

Stewardship

During this month, many people take time to review their lives over the first half of the year. Please take a few minutes to think about your Christian walk and all GOD has given you and what you have returned to Him.

- ◇ Time.
- ◇ Talent.
- ◇ Money.
- ◇ Prayer.
- ◇ Environment.

How is your tithe to GOD so far this year?

*“Every good gift,
and every perfect love
is a gift from above,
coming down
from the
Father of Lights.”*

James 1:17 ESV



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