

# KirkWood Kronicle

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

March 2021

## A Message from our Pastor Chris Shearer



### What Will You Give Up For Lent 2021?

The notion of giving up something for Lent goes all the way back to Jesus' own temptations (see Matthew 4.1-11): Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness were a time of deprivation and spiritual preparation. The first few generations of Christians took that pattern and applied it to how inquirers were integrated into the Christian faith, specifically to the last step of the process which was an intense time of personal reflection lasting 40 days, most often ending with their baptism. Seeing how impactful that time period was for these would-be new Christians, the earliest church expanded upon it, and began to invite the entire church to observe Lent as a time of recommitment, and as a part of this new special season all Christians were encouraged to fast regularly. From these historical roots sprang the idea of forgoing or surrendering something for Lent.

So what might you give up for Lent this year, if that's part of your usual Lenten routine?

Here a few creative, unique, and unusual ideas for you to consider:

1) From The Disrupt Worship Project group, perhaps this year you might consider giving up one of these attitudes?:



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**Worship:** 9:30 a.m. live via YouTube and on demand. Both are accessible though KirkWood's home page and our YouTube channel.

**Sunday School:** During this time of pandemic restrictions on gathering, KirkWood offers fresh resources for individual, family, and group nurturing. Please see details on pages 4 and 5.

- *Defensiveness:* The fear of new ideas, different ideas, people not like you, or just being wrong.
- *Individualism:* The myth of your own autonomy, that others need you far more than you need them, or the insistence that your perspective is inherently superior to others.



- *Either/Or Thinking*: If it's A, then it cannot be B; if A is good or right, then B is bad or wrong. In part, the motive behind either/or thinking is security through oversimplifying a complex, sometimes befuddling world.
- *The Right to Comfort*: The belief that maintaining your own personal comfort matters most of all, even at the expense of others.

2) From a leading blog for millennial Christian women, here are few things you might lay aside for Lent:

- Forgo social media for part of every day, or at least one full day a week during Lent.
- Forgo weighing yourself, or disparaging yourself when you look in the mirror.
- Forgo all negative speech about others, even the things you say just to yourself in your own head about someone else... This can also include all self-criticism.
- Forgo complaining; every time you feel the impulse to complain, ask yourself offer a quick prayer of thanks for something instead.
- Forgo driving over the speed limit.
- Forgo sleeping in a bed, as an act of mindful solidarity with the poorest in our world. Another way to identify with the poor would be give up eating anything but rice, beans, and/or simple vegetables for a few nights or days a week. Yet another is to not spend money on anything that's nonessential... You might not be able to do that for all of Lent, but you could for a week or two.
- For the cable news junkies, forgo watching your favorite channel for the entirety of Lent, and only get your news from neutral sites like the Associated Press or Reuters.

Forgo all negative speech about others, even the things you say just to yourself in your own head about someone else.

These ideas are just meant to spark your imagination; perhaps their creativity will inspire you to identify something off-the-radar or atypical that you'd like to lay aside for Lent, and how.

Warmly,  
Chris

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### March Special Dates

- March 5 — World Day of Prayer
- March 13 — CC Soup and Sandwich Drive-by
- March 14 — Daylight-Saving Time begins
- March 20 — First day of spring
- March 20 — Spring Cleanup (Rain date March 27)
- March 28-April 4 — Holy Week
- March 28 — Palm/Passion Sunday

**Coming Spring 2021**  
 KirkWood membership survey on Stewardship in the time of COVID.  
 Be looking for more information to come.



### Matthew 6:16-18

When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

# CHILDREN'S ENRICHMENT

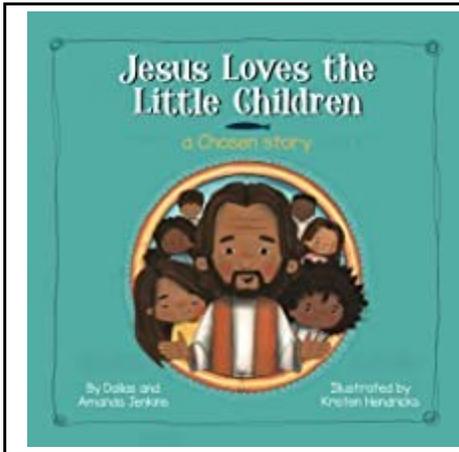
Christian Education



Are you a grandma, mimi, gawa, nana?  
Are you a fun aunt, a grown cousin,  
a parent?

Did you know that there are weekly emails available to help children relate to the worship service? There are also packets of crafts and goodies with coordinating theme or lessons to occupy young idle hands.

Call the office if you want to add your name to the weekly email list or pick a bag. The next bag will be ready before Holy Week.



A generous donation has allowed multiple copies of Jesus Loves the Little Children: A Chosen Story to be available at the church. Whether you have seen the series or it is on your watch list, use this book with your little loved one to share who Jesus is and why he came for you.

Other books and videos — from parenting, Easter, devotionals and more — are available in the children's library. Books are borrowed with the honor system. This is a link to see what might be available on site. <https://rebrand.ly/childrens-library-catalog>

Contact [jeannine.scott@gmail.com](mailto:jeannine.scott@gmail.com) to schedule a delivery or curbside pickup.

# ADULT RESOURCES & STUDY

Christian Education

## New Media Channel for KirkWood

These days more and more of us are taking advantage of the growing number of streaming services to access our favorite shows and to explore new types of programming on demand.

I'm happy to say that KirkWood people now have access to a streaming channel for Christian educational content from Amplify Media — a service of our United Methodist friends.

Our KirkWood subscription opens access for everyone in the KirkWood community to freely use the system and even to set up “watch party” groups if you'd like.

Go to: <https://my.amplifymedia.com/kirkwoodpresbyterianchurchyo/welcome>

Enter the congregation access code: **KGWRYP**

Create your own free personal account.

Browse and discover a wide range of new and expanding educational programming for families, children, adults, youth, devotions, women's Bible study, worship and inspiration, small groups, and challenging issues. Once you register, you can stream via the web, Roku, or iOS and Android apps.

Check it out and let me know what you find.

Charlie Reece

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## Adult Sunday School

- Sundays at 11 a.m., a Zoom-based class is discussing and reflecting on topics that parallel the current sermon series on practical ways we pay attention to and learn from Jesus through scripture and our situation today. Plenty of room for everyone. Contact Christine Pregler or Charlie Reece for link info.
- Small study groups and prayer groups also meet regularly via Zoom. Check the bulletin for opportunities.

# BLOOD DRIVE

Outreach



The first Red Cross Blood Drive of 2021 was held at the church on Thursday, February 18. It was a HUGE success!

All COVID protocols were followed during the event. We had 37 presenting donors and were able to collect 43 pints of blood. We had five donors who gave “Power Red” donations, which is two units of blood. We had four deferrals — donors unable to give for reasons such as low iron or blood pressures above an acceptable level.

The Red Cross had a goal for us of 31 pints. I think we crushed it!!

Thank you to all those that come out to donate or volunteer their time to help make our drives run so smoothly and successfully. We are still unable to serve a meal, but are hoping to resume that ministry later in 2021.

**Our remaining 2021 dates (all Thursdays) are: May 20, August 19, and November 18. Please mark your calendars.** If you have questions or would like to know how you can help during future drives, please contact Cathy Hudgins.

# CLOTHING DONATIONS NEEDED

Outreach

Please consider donating clean, gently used clothing for homeless and needy men and women. The need is great and is constant.

Needed are: Coats, sweaters, pants, underwear, socks, shoes, hats, gloves, and even backpacks. Donations can be brought to KirkWood, or call Wendy Barrick (757-870-9642) for pickup or delivery.

# PUSHING THROUGH COVID

## Worship

Thank you for continuing to worship with us as we have pushed through this winter with COVID. Yes, KirkWood has had to go back to 100% virtual worship. Thankfully, this is temporary. The decline of COVID over the past month has given us hope that we can return to some level of in-person services before too long, similar to what we were doing last summer and fall. We are monitoring the several indicators to help us determine when it is safe enough to do so. This includes state and local infection rates, executive orders, and guidance from PEVA and other church bodies. With all this, we consider both the physical and spiritual health of the members of KirkWood.

In the meantime, we have tried to help everyone stay engaged. We are thrilled to see so much live chatting along with the service — such as to say hi, to offer praises, to give thoughts on the message, and more. Some Sundays we have asked those watching live to text prayer requests to Pastor Chris so he can summarize them in the prayers of the people. We hosted our Ash Wednesday on Zoom, allowing church members to see each other through the service, and join together in our match lighting. And we have recently added a phone call-in for the live service, so that those who do not have the ability or access to watch the services on YouTube can still experience it. (To join by phone, call 425-436-6312, and at the voice prompt enter 1355300#)

*Our online services have reached farther than we ever expected, reaching people who could never have attended service in person.*

Also know that our online services have reached farther than we ever expected, reaching people who could never have attended service in person. People who are confined to their homes can attend the service. Worshipers join us from central Virginia, the upper Midwest, the Deep South and other places we don't even know about.

This is one of the things that we have learned through COVID — that our reach can be beyond 1209 Hampton Highway, beyond York County, beyond Virginia. When you share the service or even our YouTube channel ([youtube.com/c/KirkWoodPresbyterianChurch](https://www.youtube.com/c/KirkWoodPresbyterianChurch)) with friends, you are extending the reach of KirkWood, as well as the Word of God.

We are very much looking forward to the days when we can begin to gather again face to face.



# CLERK OF SESSION REPORT

## Session

Every February, the Clerk of Session must fill out a Statistical Report to turn into the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia. The report is then sent to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA. *A special thanks to Albertina for helping with this form each year.*

Please note: the financial data in this report does not match the budget information that was in the Annual Report. The Annual Report includes only budgeted data. The Statistical Report also includes other funds, known to many as benevolence funds, such as the Pumpkin Patch giving. A copy is available in the office for anyone who would like to view it.

A copy of the pastor’s covenant and call can also be found in the office. The covenant explains what Pastor Chris will do for us and what is expected of us. The call is the distribution of money that KirkWood will pay him. The congregation approved the call at the Congregational Meeting on February 7, 2021.

If you have any questions, feel free to call or email Nancy Ridsen, Clerk of Session at [ndrisden@gmail.com](mailto:ndrisden@gmail.com).

### Interested in reading?

Copies of the Statistical Report, as well as the Pastor’s covenant and call, are maintained in Nancy Ridsen’s mailbox in the office for anyone who wishes to view them.

Please remember to call the office to see if someone is present to let you into the building. Also please leave the copies in Nancy’s mailbox so others can also view them.

# “ONLINE GIVING” CAPABILITY IS HERE!

## Stewardship

KirkWood has a new capability ... online giving! You can now contribute your tithes and offerings to KirkWood using your Visa, Mastercard, Discover, or American Express credit or debit card using your computer or smart phone.





Just follow these simple steps:

1. Go to the KirkWood website... <https://kirkwoodpcusa.org/>
2. Scroll down and click on the blue “Donate Now” button (Fig. 1)
3. Enter your name on the “Donation Page” (Fig. 2)
4. Select “Offering Type” from the drop-down menu (Fig. 3)
5. If you selected “Designated Offering” in step 4 above, use the “Additional Info” field to enter where you want your donation applied (e.g., HOPE, flowers, Food Pantry, One Great Hour of Sharing, etc.)
6. Enter your Envelope/Giving # (e.g., 3, 67, 1374, 5047, etc.)
7. Complete the remaining fields on the form
8. Click “Submit Payment”

That’s all there is to it!

Two points of emphasis: 1) if you select “Designated Offering,” please let us know in the “Additional Info” field where your donation should be applied, and 2) if you have envelopes or a giving number, please enter it in the “Envelope/Giving #” field.

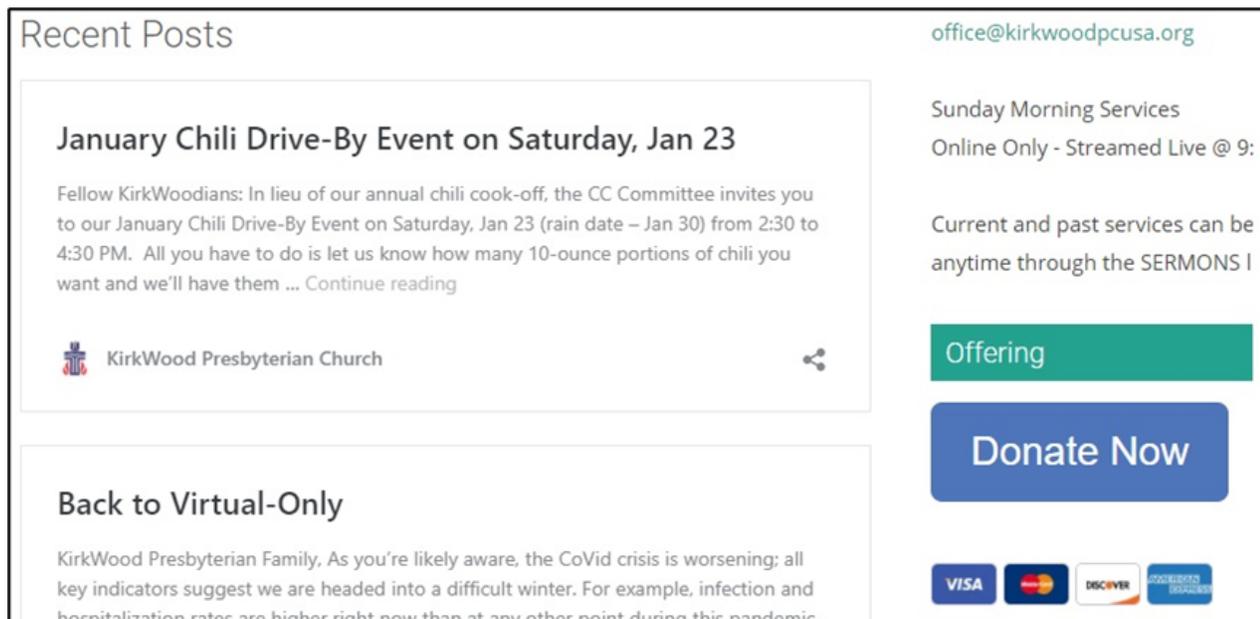


Fig. 1



### Donation Page



Name of Donor \*

Offering Type \*

Additional Info (HOPE, flowers, etc.)

Envelope/Giving #

Amount To Give

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**Payment Info**

Card Number \*

Expiration Date \*

Security Code (CVV) \*



I'm not a robot 

**Billing Info**

Company Name

First Name \*

Last Name \*

Address 1 \*

Address 2

City \*

State \*

Zip/Postal Code \*

Fig. 2

Name of Donor \*

Offering Type \*

Additional Info (HOPE, flowers, etc.)

Envelope/Giving #

Amount To Give

**Offering Type Dropdown:**

- Please Select
- Please Select**
- General Fund
- Pastor's Fund
- Designated Offering

Fig. 3

# Fellowship and Caring for Others

Congregational Care

**Soup and Sandwich Drive-By:** Our Chili Drive-By was such a success, we decided to do a Soup and Sandwich event on March 13. We expect to have several choices for soup and a couple of sandwich options. Put it on your calendar and stay tuned for registration information.

**Game Nights:** We had two game nights in February and hope to continue with one or two in March. They've been a lot of fun, and we hope more people will "zoom" in for future games. If you have ideas for games you or your kids would like to see, please let us know.

**Meals Support:** 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.

The point of contact for these items/events is Lew Goodman.

## Kirkwood Silver

Hello, KirkWood Silver friends! I hope each and every one of you is well and is continuing to find engaging ways to pass the time in this "slow" season as we wait out the pandemic. Please feel free to share what you're doing or have done that has been especially satisfying!

It is still going to be a while before we can get together as a group the way we used to do, but I am going to propose a plan, a tentative plan, for us to get together on April 15, in the church parking lot at 11:30 a.m. My thinking is that we could have everyone bring their own lunches and beverages, chairs, and masks and enjoy visiting for a while, socially distanced, of course.

Let me know by email or by phone, 757-868-8651, if you think this is a viable plan for us. If you have another thought on how we can get together, please share your ideas.

In the meantime, be of good cheer, remembering that our faithful God is able to do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine! Ephesians 3:20 NIV

Wanda Birch

# PROPERTY & FACILITIES

## Property & Facilities

### Remodeling Resumes

We are starting back with the remodeling of the church. The painting of the hallways is complete and now it is time to replace the flooring in the hallways. We can use all levels of talent from runners for material, to cutters, and to installers. Here are the planned days for replacing the flooring:

- 3/9: Remove carpet in hallways — 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- 3/11: Removal and start installing — 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- 3/13: Continue installing flooring — 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- 3/16: Continue installing flooring — 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- 3/22: Continue installing flooring — 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- 3/25: Install trim — 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

We will need 8 to 10 people each shift. Please contact Kirk Reno at [h2orenos@gmail.com](mailto:h2orenos@gmail.com) or 757-880-0012 if you can help.

### It's Spring Clean-up Time!

The P&F Committee is inviting all able-bodied KirkWoodians and their friends to come out and help with the spring clean-up of the KirkWood campus.

The date is March 20, 8 to 11 a.m. We will be cleaning flower beds, trimming trees, raking leftover leaves, and spreading 28 yards of mulch. We start at 8 a.m. and are done between 10 and 11 a.m. Feel free to arrive at whatever time works best for you and stay as long or short as your schedule allows.

Bring gloves, a rake, and we can use some additional wheelbarrows. (The rain date is March 27.)



### Summer Mowing Teams Needed

Soon the P&F committee will be looking for volunteers to be part of a summer lawn mowing team to help keep the KirkWood campus looking its best. We will be looking for seven to eight teams of three to four volunteers. This will allow each team to only have to mow three to four times throughout the summer. Please contact Kirk Reno if you would like to help.

Property and Facilities (P&F) committee chairs are Scott Shoun and Kirk Reno. Our group is involved in keeping our church, property, and landscape in top shape to best reflect God's blessings to all who pass-by or visit. If you are interested in joining the P&F committee we normally meet in the Sanctuary on the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. Hopefully we will be able to meet in person soon.

Please feel free to pass along to Scott or Kirk any concerns or observations you may have regarding our church's facilities.

