

KirkWood Kronicle

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

March 2022

A Message from our Pastor Chris Shearer



KirkWood family,

Lent 2022 is just around the corner. Our journey with Christ this year takes the shape of a series entitled “Come to Jesus,” a study of why different people in the gospels sought out Jesus, and what answers they received from Him when they did. This exploration will conclude with our two special Holy Week services: Maundy Thursday and Easter.

Walking with Christ during Lent is just a microcosm of walking with Him week by week and decade by decade throughout our lives. Like a string of pearls, we hang day after day together. Too many human beings don't walk perse, but rather stumble or lurch or stagger, tripping, falling, and directionless. However, walking with Christ turns life into a path. And that which we've traversed so with Jesus motivates and assures us for what might lie ahead.



The following poem, simply entitled “Walker” by Spanish poet Antonio Machado (20th Century A.D.), speaks to this in such simple yet profound ways.



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.



WALKER

By Antonio Machado

"Walker, your footsteps are the road, and nothing more.

Walker, there is no road, the road is made by walking.

Walking you make the road, and turning to look behind you see the path you never again will step upon.

Walker, there is no road, only foam trails on the sea."

Keep walking, KirkWood,
Pastor Chris



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Special Dates and Upcoming Events

- March 2 — Ash Wednesday Drive-Thru 3:30-6 p.m.
- March 4 — World Day of Prayer
- March 13 — Daylight Saving Time Begins
- March 20 — Annual Chili Cook-Off, 6 p.m. First Day of Spring

Session Update

Session

- ◆ The Pastor's Fund has been changed to The Blessing Fund: the latter emphasizes how we use the fund, whereas the previous title emphasized who supervised its dispersal.
- ◆ We will celebrate our partnership with the Scouts on March 13.
- ◆ The Chili Cook-Off is March 20, 6 p.m., here at church.
- ◆ The Spring Clean-Up is April 2 with a backup date of April 9, in case of rain.
- ◆ There are two cases of hand sanitizer in the auxiliary nursery in the CE wing; these have been donated to KirkWood. If anyone knows of a non-profit or area group that could use the sanitizer, please let the church office know.
- ◆ Beginning on February 27, we will include a new monthly segment in worship entitled "4th Sunday Spotlight." This will be a time for us to highlight various ministries or other themes in the life of the church.
- ◆ There is no Sunday School on February 27 in lieu of the belated Valentine's Day brunch.
- ◆ We are beginning to greet and engage newcomers, both in person and digitally, more intentionally—e.g., at the start and end of each worship service, in the Narthex at the Welcome Counter, etc.



Congregational Care Roundup

Congregational Care

Annual Chili Cook-off: Our annual Chili Cook-off originally scheduled for Sunday, January 23, has been rescheduled for Sunday, March 20, in the Fellowship Hall at 6 p.m. (Folks entering the contest need to bring their chili at 5 p.m.) We look forward to judging and consuming your four-legged (beef, pork, etc.), two-legged (poultry), and no-legged (seafood, vegetarian) entries. Contest rules and in-person sign-up are available in the Narthex, and you can sign up online here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4AAFA62FA13-kirkwood6>





KirkWood Dining Partners: Please join the Dining Partners on Saturday, March 12, 6 p.m., at the Nest Kitchen and Taphouse in Kiln Creek. The point of contact is Cindy Williamson, cwillic114@gmail.com.

KirkWood Silver: KirkWood Silver did not meet in February, but plans to reunite on Thursday, March 17, 11:30 a.m. in the KirkWood Fellowship Hall for a pizza lunch (see expanded article, page 7). The point of contact is Wanda Birch, wandjbirch@verizon.net

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.

Unless otherwise noted, the point of contact for these items/events is Lew Goodman, lewandmary1@gmail.com

It's Spring Clean-up Time!

Property & Facilities

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 April 2, 8 to 11 a.m. (The rain date is April 9.)

We will be cleaning flower beds, trimming trees, raking leftover leaves, and spreading 28 yards of mulch. Bring gloves, a rake, and we can use some additional wheelbarrows.

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.



Time to Spring Forward!

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 13.
Remember to turn your clocks forward one hour.



COVID Worship Restrictions Easing

Worship

Just when we thought COVID was going away, the Omicron variant started exploding in Virginia in late December and into January. On December 19, there were only 3,300 total reported new cases of COVID in Virginia. By December 25, new cases hit 8,600, and on January 1, new cases hit 14,700. Finally on January 8, new COVID cases in Virginia hit 26,175.

Because of this rapid and dangerous rise in COVID cases, to keep all of us safe, KirkWood quickly put in a number of mitigation measures just after the new year. We highly encouraged masking for those willing to wear a mask within the building. We stopped congregational singing and had only one person singing up front. Choir practices and in-person meetings were postponed, and most meetings went to a Zoom format. The coffee fellowship time was temporarily suspended, and most social activities like the Chili Cook-off were postponed.



Now the GOOD NEWS!! COVID numbers are plummeting. On February 15, COVID numbers showed just 2,993 new cases in Virginia. We are reopening things in a step process. Congregational singing resumed on Sunday, February 13, though masks were still encouraged. In the coming weeks, look for a steady relaxing of Covid mitigation measures.

There was a delayed Valentine's breakfast in the Fellowship Hall on February 27, and the Coffee Fellowship time returns on March 6. Look for choirs to return and getting back to "normal" in the coming weeks.

Thanks to all who helped us soldier through this very trying time. Sunday service continued, and the online services never missed a beat. As we emerge from this emergency, reach out and call each other to see how everyone weathered the storm. We have found the light at the end of the tunnel.



Giving Parents Confidence to Disciple

Children's Ministry

Christie Thomas from www.littleshootsdeeproots.com taught a session during the 2022 Bible Creative Conference to debunk myths on why teaching kids about Jesus at home is so hard.

She first brought up the commonly heard complaint, "I don't have the time." You might imagine a jar where you are trying to fit all the big pebbles in first—like soccer practice, school, work, celebrations, cooking, cleaning...and the list goes on. What if God *wasn't* the big pebble but the sand or water that fills in all the cracks and surrounds everything? What if you looked at the car ride to school as an opportunity or that moment at the soccer game as a devotional?

The second point she helped to redirect was that children don't sit still and pay attention. Your kids might not be the ones to sit at the table and listen to scripture read out of the family Bible. Your kids might want to act it out with puppets or LEGO® bricks, or Play-Doh®. Your kids might want a discussion about kindness or to look at the clouds and wonder what the sea creature that swallowed Jonah might have looked like.



Make sure your children learn (the commandments). Talk about them when you are at home. Talk about them when you walk along the road. Speak about them when you go to bed. And speak about them when you get up.

Deuteronomy 6:7

Don't worry about having all the answers. Christie reminds us that our weakness is not bigger than God's strength. Lean not on **WHAT** you know, but **WHO** you know.

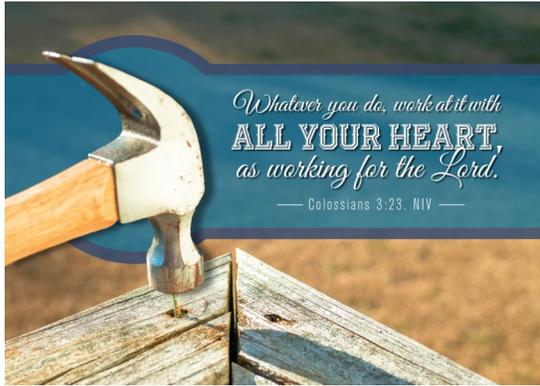
Lent is a common time to remember Jesus' sacrifice by giving something up to make more room for His grace. So feel empowered this season to give up the excuses and add confidence that you can have a positive impact on helping your children be the disciples God designed them to be.





May Adult Mission Trip

Mission



KirkWood will be headed to New Bern, North Carolina, for an adult mission trip. We will be leaving on Sunday, May 1, and returning on Friday, May 6. You may sign up for the whole week or part of the week as your schedule allows.

We will be staying at the New Hope Volunteer Village and working with Craven County Disaster Recovery Alliance (CCDRA) to make repairs to homes that were impacted by the hurricanes over the last few years. The cost will be \$25 per night with a total depending on how long you stay. KirkWood's mission funds will cover the cost of meals and transportation. Because the facility is bunk-style housing, at this time they are requiring that everyone provide proof of vaccination.

You can sign up on the Mission bulletin board in the hall or contact Jamie Reno at h2orenos@gmail.com

KirkWood Silver

Congregational Care

KirkWood Silver will meet on Thursday, March 17, at 11:30 a.m., for a pizza lunch followed by a fun and informative Q&A time with our pastor. Chris is willing to field queries about his life before or since KirkWood, or about scripture, his Biblical favorites or Christian writers, music preference, most meaningful life experiences he has had, or... whatever you'd like to know!



Please sign up in the Narthex so we will know how to be prepared. Invite someone new to KirkWood or to KWS to join us for fantastic fellowship!

It will be St. Patrick's Day. Wearing something green is welcome but optional!

Contact Wanda Birch at wandjbirch@verzon.net or 757-868-8651 if you have questions.



Amazing February Blood Drive

Mission

Our first 2022 Red Cross Blood Drive was held at the church on Thursday, February 17. COVID protocols were in place during the event. We had 43 presenting donors and collected 40 pints of blood. Our goal was 30 and we CRUSHED it!

Three donors gave "Power Red," which is two units of blood, and there were five deferrals, which is donors unable to give for reasons such as low iron or blood pressures above an acceptable level. There were only a few no shows. All donors should receive a code for a \$10 Amazon gift card. This community is so amazing. Thank you to all who come out to donate or volunteer their time to help make our drives run so smoothly and successfully.



We were still unable to serve a meal, but are hoping to resume that ministry later in 2022. **Our remaining 2022 dates are: May 19, August 18, and November 17. Please mark your calendars.**

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

Busy 2022 Start for Outreach

Outreach

The Outreach Committee has been busy so far in 2022. We have grown to 10 members, but we can still use more. Meeting dates and times are in the church bulletin.

So far, we have made the Visitor Center in the Narthex more visible, and we plan to have someone present before and after services to assist Pastor Chris in meeting and greeting visitors. This is an easy way to get involved in the Outreach effort.





With the help of Jeannine Scott and Tina Dowe, we have updated the KirkWood brochure for visitors. All are encouraged to take a few of the brochures to give to friends and neighbors. There are also business cards with information about KirkWood—a perfect size to carry in a wallet or purse.

Not surprisingly, God has provided us with some new ideas and opportunities along the way. Session members recently attended a Zoom webinar in which we explored ways to use our livestream, website, and social media to reach out to our neighbors and community.

We have also renewed our interest in a PC(USA) initiative called Matthew 25, which helps churches focus their efforts on being a vital part of the community. Stay tuned as plans evolve.

Exciting times at KirkWood! Exciting time to grow as a disciple!

If you have questions about KirkWood’s Outreach program, contact Arba Williamson, 757-344-5588 or awillia114@aol.com

Using Your God-Given Talents

Stewardship

Stewardship in the Bible has to do with understanding that your life is not your own. Your life is on loan from God, and God calls you to manage everything about your life for His glory and the good of others.

We all benefit from other people’s talents. For example, you are able to use your cellphone because someone decided to share their inventive talent with the world. Certain songs or music have helped you to draw closer to God because someone shared his or her musical talent with the world. Think of all the ways you have been enriched by other people’s talents!

What are your talents and skills? And how do you use them to build God’s kingdom for His glory?





KirkWood has many active ministries and ways to serve. All committees are open to anyone, and meeting dates and times are in the weekly church bulletin. Why not join in and expand your knowledge, experience, and faith by working with others to share the word of the Lord?

For example, the Mission Committee organizes the HOPE (Helping Other People Eat) and other special offerings, quarterly blood drives, feeding the homeless through the PORT program and, of course, the Pumpkin Patch to support various local, national and international causes as well as the Navajo Nation who grow and harvest the pumpkins.

Another example is the Congregational Care Committee, which sponsors programs that encourage fellowship, service, and caring for the congregation. Members visit the sick and homebound, and also provide meals for grieving, ill, and recuperating congregants.

The examples can go on and on—service opportunities exist in all the church committees. More information can be found on KirkWood's website. (<https://kirkwoodpcusa.org/>)

Spend some time in prayer and reflection to discern how God wants you to share your talents. Then open yourself to sharing your talents with your church family. Being a community in Christ is more than Sunday worship—we need to support one another both within KirkWood and in the larger community by sharing our talents and time.

