

# KirkWood Kronicle

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

May 2023



KW Family,

Given that we've just started a four-week exploration of joy as portrayed in the New Testament letter of Philippians, I thought I'd devote this space to a great devotional from the United Church of Christ on joy in an unjust world: the author puts into words a tension we all feel.

Enjoy! (See what I did there.)

## Joy

by **Anthony Robinson** | published on **Oct 20, 2016**

"You crown the year with your bounty, your wagon tracks overflow with richness. The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy, the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy." – Psalm 65: 11 – 13

People sometimes ask how I go about writing one of these devotions. I usually begin by reading the several Scripture readings for my assigned date. I mull them over. I listen for which text or verses intrigue or provoke, disturb or delight.

One of the passages for today is Psalm 65, a psalm of such praise and joy it fairly shimmers. Its final verses, three of which are above, celebrate the abundance of the harvest. "These are so beautiful," I think. Reading them I see the light-charged wheat and oat fields, the herds of black and red cattle, the racing streams and waterways, and tall skies of my eastern Oregon homeland.



## KirkWood Presbyterian Church

1209 Hampton Highway | Yorktown, VA 23693

Phone: 757-766-0343

Email: <https://www.KirkWoodpcusa.org/> | Website: <http://www.KirkWoodpcusa.org/>

**Worship:** Sundays, 9:30 AM, 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 AM (adult) and 11:00 AM (all ages). Nursery care is available. Please visit our website for information on additional resources for individual, family, and group nurturing.



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May 4 - National Day of Prayer

May 5-6 - KirkWood Croppers and Crafters

May 7 - Food Pantry Collection

May 13 - KirkWood Walking Group at 9AM

May 14 - Mother's Day, H.O.P.E. (Helping Other People Eat) Offering

May 18 - Ascension Day

May 20 - Armed Forces Day, Board Game Gathering at 1PM

May 28 - Pentecost

May 29 - Memorial Day (Church Office Closed)

continued from Pastor Chris' letter -

Then a voice in my head says, "When people read this we will be three weeks from this election. There's so much that's awful in the world and this election is so worrisome, how can you quote a psalm of such joy and beauty at a time like this?" To which another voice answers, "How can you not?"

I think of the words of the essayist E. B. White, "I arise in the morning torn between a desire to improve the world and a desire to enjoy the world. This makes it hard to plan the day."

Even in anxious times, perhaps especially in anxious times, joy in beauty, joy in life, joy in God, is true and good. "It is right," as a line from the liturgy puts it, "to give God thanks and praise."

In his poem "A Brief for the Defense," Jack Gilbert writes, "To make injustice the only measure of our attention is to praise the devil."



# Becoming a Ruling Elder on Session

## Session

Let's be honest. For years, the scariest words many KirkWood members fear the most have been "WILL YOU SERVE ON SESSION?" All of the session members had the immediate emotions of "I'm not worthy" or "I don't have the time" or "It takes so much work" or "I don't want to get involved in the drama and politics of church life."

What if we told you that being a ruling elder can be rewarding? There is the opportunity to grow exponentially in your faith journey. You can really develop your leadership skills and you can help guide the direction of KirkWood for the next five to ten years. Yes, the work is challenging, but often, the rewards far outweigh the challenges.

In a nutshell, Session is made up of 12 elected elders. Each term is four years with 1/3 of the Session members rotating every year. In the Presbyterian Church, the Elders set policy, control the budget, chair the various Sessional Committees, and work closely with the pastor and the rest of staff. At KirkWood, we try to work with members and staff to plan and guide the church for the next several years. Our guiding principle is our vision statement which reads: "KirkWood is a Christian community growing together, knowing, loving, and serving Christ, to make Him known to all."

Over the next couple of months, we will share articles on what it is like to be a Session member. We come in all shapes and sizes, and we all bring unique gifts to the table. We'll share the process, the training, and the various jobs that Session fills.

By mid-summer, the Nominating Committee will start getting together to prayerfully consider four open Session positions and who we believe would be best able to share their gifts and be future leaders at KirkWood. If you get approached, don't run and hide. Consider it an honor to be asked whether you agree to serve or not. It just means that lots of folks think that you have some unique gifts to help KirkWood move into the future.



# Communication

## Outreach

submitted by Arba Williamson

On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, I spoke briefly about communication and how it relates to our Stewardship. In today's world, communication is vitally important -particularly when fewer people actually attend Sunday service and many have never heard the "Good News". As Followers of Christ, we must be intentional about how we communicate verbally, by our actions, and through the myriad of social media available.

The KirkWood vision statement calls us to "... grow together to love, know, and serve God and **make Him known to all**" Yes, I am referring to the often despised task of "evangelism"! The early disciples were so overwhelmed by the risen Christ that they could not stop telling others. We should have that same enthusiasm about the "Good News" and furthering God's kingdom here on earth.

Years ago, Mark Mittelberg, an evangelism strategist, spoke at KirkWood. His message was "Just walk across the room". Mark's visit created a buzz but KirkWood never fully captured the evangelical spirit.

I hear it and have said it: "Evangelism is just not one of my gifts." But God does work in unusual ways. KirkWood's rapid adoption of livestreaming and other social media during COVID have been eye opening to reaching out to others. The new world of communication has radically changed the evangelism landscape. Communication must become a "ministry" for each of us; right up there with praying for others, serving those in need, loving our neighbor, and following Christ's example in all we do.

What you can do to spread the word:

Share a KirkWood Facebook post with others

Post KirkWood events on local and neighborhood websites (e.g. Poquoson 411)

Invite someone to a KirkWood event

Glorify God in all you do



# News for Seniors

## Congregational Care

**KirkWood Silver**, our "senior" group, will be sharing good fellowship over lunch at York River Oyster Bar and Grill on Thursday, May 18th, at 11:30 AM. The restaurant has delicious food and a lovely setting on the water at the Yacht Haven Marina. The address is 8109 Yacht Haven Road, Gloucester Point. If the weather is favorable, we will be seated on their spacious deck. Meet at the restaurant at 11:30 or meet at the church at 10:50 to take the van. Sign up for this event April 30th through May 16th. Contact Wanda or Jim Birch at 757-868-8651, or [wandjbirch@verizon.net](mailto:wandjbirch@verizon.net) if you have questions.

June 17th: We will be attending the Williamsburg Players production of "The Spitfire Grill" - a rousing musical about new beginnings. 200 Hubbard Lane, Williamsburg, 2:00 PM. Contact Gloria Griffin, 757-719-0995, to purchase tickets for \$15.00 each (THERE ARE A FEW STILL AVAILABLE). The VAN will be going and will leave at 1:00 PM. Be sure to check the VAN column on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex to reserve your seat.

## Celebrating Our Graduates

The office needs your help. If you, or your child, is a senior in high school or college and will be graduating this spring (or graduated last fall), please contact the office by May 28<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Albertina by email at

[office@KirkWoodpcusa.org](mailto:office@KirkWoodpcusa.org) or at 757-766-0343

with the name of the student, the school from which they will be graduating, future plans (if known) and a senior/graduation picture. We will

also recognize our high school graduates during worship on June 11<sup>th</sup>. Thank you so much.







# Blood Drive Update, Volunteers Needed

## Mission

Our next 2023 KirkWood Blood Drive is scheduled for **THURSDAY, May 18<sup>th</sup>, from 2-7 PM 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 arrive. 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](mailto:hudgepudge@aol.com). **We are 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 for this lifesaving need.

Each year, an estimated 6.8 million people in the U.S. donate blood. Please prayerfully consider being one of them this month.

**Donna Craig will be coordinating the food for our drives. Our May menu will be BBQ sandwiches. Donna is asking for donations of buns, chips and cookies or brownies. If you would like to donate any of these food items, or help with a monetary donation to defray the cost of the BBQ, contact Donna ([donnacraig029@gmail.com](mailto:donnacraig029@gmail.com))**

**The remaining 2023 Dates: 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.**



# Ongoing Help for Others

## Missions

**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.

**Meals for Veterans:** We need help with our Vet Meal Mission. You can help with this ministry by providing meals for 2 Vet homes (5 men in each home) every Monday. (The meals can be homemade or purchased at a store/restaurant.) Sign up in the Narthex.. Contact Zora Parker or Gloria Griffin if you can help.

**Bags for THRIVE:** We are collecting plastic grocery bags, such as those you get from the grocery stores. Place the bags in the white plastic bin in the hallway by the fellowship hall. Another opportunity is collecting shoes, any type, any size and for men, women, and children. There is a red plastic bin in the hallway headed to the fellowship hall for them. So, empty out your shoe closets and bring them to church!!!!





# Stewardship of the Earth

## Stewardship

When you hear the word *garden*, what comes to mind? Do you envision the hanging gardens of Babylon or tomatoes and peppers growing in a small plot of soil? Do you think of a public green space for all to enjoy, or should it be locked away for personal use? Maybe you think of the garden of Eden or the Garden of Gethsemane, or do you think of the garden in Revelation. Do you ever think of a garden as a reflection of GOD's grace.

GOD's grace and a garden are both creations by GOD. Gardens tell us almost everything we need to know about GOD, humanity, and GOD's love for humanity. We need to first recognize GOD's Grace as we need to recognize the importance of a garden on the earth. We need to accept that GOD's Grace and a garden both need to be nurtured and developed to reach their full potential.

Do you consider this work of cultivation (Grace and a garden) to be part of your tithe to God, or is it just one more chore in your life? Stewardship of the earth is just as important to a believer as their money, time, or talent tithes.

Do you work to help the earth to heal, or do you contribute to its downfall? Gus Speth, Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality under President Jimmy Carter once stated, "The top environmental problems are selfishness, greed and apathy, and to deal with these we need a cultural and spiritual transformation." Are not these problems the same as the way many view GOD's grace?

We all can do something for the health of our environment and telling others about the Grace of GOD. We do not have to be a Master Gardener or a Minister. God has given us the honor of serving Him, if we are willing. Stewardship of the earth and stewardship of GOD's grace mean to leave the world a bit better and to know even one life has breathed easier because you were a good steward.







# Egg-sploration Wrap Up!

Christian Education



The Great Easter Eggs-ploration held on Easter Sunday, helped people explore and think about what Easter means to them. A huge thanks to those who were hidiers and seekers in the outdoor egg hunt!





# Join a Group!

## **Support Group Forming**

KirkWood is offering a new opportunity to help each other through our faith and common experiences. We are starting a support group for those with chronic illnesses to meet at KirkWood once a month. The group is open to non-members of KirkWood as well so if you, a family member, or a friend could benefit from such a group, please join us. The date and time are not fully established, so watch for announcements in the bulletin or worship service. If you have any questions or would like information on how to sign up, call Steve Hudgins, 757-880-1862.

## **Walking Group is Going to Yorktown**

The KirkWood Walking Group will be visiting historic Yorktown in May. With the hotter months beginning, we are moving up the start time to 9:00 AM to beat the heat. We will meet at Yorktown Visitor's Center at 9:00 AM on Saturday May 13. (address: 1000 Colonial Nat'l Historical Pkwy, Yorktown, VA 23690 – on the battlefields)

As always, there will be 3 options for walking. The first option for gentle walkers will be to stay up in the historic area and will be about 1 mile. The 2<sup>nd</sup> option takes us down to the waterfront area with lots of shops and probably a Farmer's Market. Those not wanting to go back up the hill have the option of taking the free trolley back up to the Visitor's Center. The final option will be to hike through the waterfront area and on to the American Revolution Museum. That round trip is about 3 miles.



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