

KirkWood Kronicle

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

November 2021

A Message from our Pastor Chris Shearer



During our current Sunday series, we're celebrating our heritage as Presbyterians and those who trace their origin back to the European Protestant Reformation. While we love that KirkWood is a "big tent" church, full of Christians and seekers from all different backgrounds, its Presbyterian identity is one we share; it is the foundation on which we build together.

What I hope you're discovering along the way is that being Presbyterian is far deeper — and cooler, I daresay — than merely our polity (how we structure and run our churches, our districts, etc.). In fact, I'll do you one better: Reformed Christianity with its distinctive emphases on the bigness of God's love and human brokenness, a Christ-centered Bible, freedom of conscience, and so on may be able to speak to the wounds and worries of our present world in a way that other harder, harsher versions of our faith cannot.

An important figure in my own spiritual life, and specifically after losing my faith in my 20s, was one of the great figures from the Reformation itself: Martin Luther. He was a key entry point into understanding God's undeserved, unmerited grace, courage in the face of great potential personal cost, the central role of trust in the spiritual life, etc. (Bonus — If you've never seen the 2003 biopic about him, "Luther," starring Joseph Fiennes, it's well worth your while.)



KirkWood Presbyterian Church

1209 Hampton Highway | Yorktown, VA 23693

Phone: 757-766-0343

Email: 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.



So to help you further appreciate our Reformed roots, let me share some of my favorite Lutherisms, all direct quotes from Martin Luther himself:

On doubt:

“Knowledge and doubt are inseparable to man. The sole alternative to knowledge-with-doubt is no knowledge at all. Only God and certain madmen have no doubt.”

On the Bible:

“The Bible is alive, it speaks to me, it has feet, it runs after me, it has hands, it lays hold of me.”

On God and trusting Him:

“God has taken my salvation out of my hands into His.”

“I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess.”

On the cross and how it defines who God/Christ are:

“I know nothing of any other Christ than He whom the Father gave and who died for me and for my sins, and I know that He is not angry with me, but is kind and gracious to me; for He would not otherwise have had the heart to die for me and for my benefit.”

On sin and forgiveness:

“There are two kinds of sin: one is confessed, and this no one should leave unforgiven; the other kind is defended, and this no one can forgive, for it refuses either to be counted as sin or to accept forgiveness.”

“Be a sinner and sin boldly, but believe and rejoice in Christ even more boldly still.”

On faith and the spiritual life:

“Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that a man could stake his life on it a thousand times.”



“I know nothing of any other Christ than He whom the Father gave and who died for me and for my sins...”





“This life therefore is not about [being righteous] but about [faith], not health but healing, not being but becoming, not rest but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it, the process is not yet finished, but it is going on, this is not the end, but it is the road. We do not yet gleam glorious, but we are being purified.”

“The whole being of any Christian is faith and love. Faith brings the person to God, love brings the person to people.”

Warmly, Pastor Christ

In This Issue

Pastor’s Letter	pg. 1-3
Dates	pg. 3
Stewardship	pg. 4
Palooza Update	pg. 4
Property & Facilities	pg. 5
KirkWood Silver	pg. 6
Outreach	pg. 6-7, 8
Session Highlights	pg. 7
Christian Education	pg. 9-10

Special Dates/Upcoming Events

- November 1 — All Saints’ Day
- November 6 — Fall Clean-up
- November 7
Daylight Savings Time Ends
Military Appreciation Dinner
- November 11 — Veterans Day
- November 13 — KirkWood Silver at Williamsburg Players
- November 18 — Red Cross Blood Drive
- November 21 — Pledge Sunday
- November 25 — Thanksgiving Day
- November 27 — Hanging of the Greens
- November 28 — First Sunday of Advent

Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 7th.

Remember to turn your clocks back an hour before bed.





HAPPY Thanksgiving!

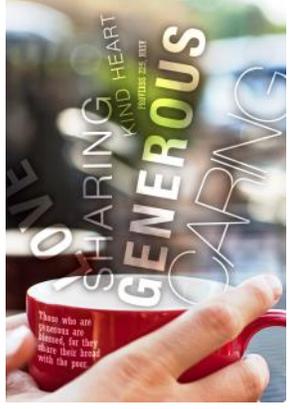
Acknowledging God's Blessings

Stewardship

November is known throughout the United States as the month to acknowledge our blessings. Celebrating Thanksgiving was originally a day of prayer and feasting. The early Spanish explorers, the colonists, Native Americans, and George Washington, who called for a Day of Thanksgiving, set aside a time to say thank you.

During this month you will have the opportunity to demonstrate your thanks to GOD by acknowledging His many blessings in your life by making a financial pledge to KirkWood.

A pledge to Christ's church demonstrates to GOD that you are thankful for the blessings He bestowed on you and your family. Financial gifts to the church should be in accordance with GOD's financial blessing to you. (Proverbs 22:9)



Shortly you will be receiving an envelope from the church. It will contain a pledge card for you to complete and return to KirkWood. By completing a pledge card, you are making a commitment to KirkWood that you are supporting our mission.

Pledge Sunday will be November 21. Before that Sunday morning, we will have five short presentations, during the service, to hear from people in our congregation about time, talent, prayer, and finances.

Please pray and consider your financial giving to the church.

Many thanks to Palooza volunteers!

Outreach

Outreach would like to thank all those who helped at the Pumpkin Palooza!!!



It was a huge success. We had folks here before the pumpkin patch opened at 10 a.m., excited for the Palooza to start. Our event brought in over 750 people throughout the festival.





Just one note of mention: Setup started at 9 a.m., and breakdown finished at 5:45 p.m. We couldn't have done any of the Palooza without an awesome, but small, group of volunteers.

Although the event was a huge success, the volunteers were overwhelmed with the amount of work, and we need your help to continue doing amazing things across all committees.

We have an amazing church, and we can do amazing things. Please consider looking at the next sign-up sheet and volunteering a couple of hours.

Hugs and Blessings to Everyone!

Toni Fisher



P&F Committee News

Property & Facilities



The Fall Clean-Up and Pumpkin Patch Removal day is November 6 from 8 to 11 a.m. (but usually completed by 10 a.m.). If you are able to come out to help, we will be removing the entire pumpkin patch, trimming trees, removing overgrown bushes, raking leaves, and doing general grounds maintenance.

We would love to have you for whatever time you can afford — either the entire time or even one hour. Bring a rake, gloves, clippers, wheelbarrow, etc. We will have plenty of tools if needed.

A big **thank you** goes out to all of our summer lawn mowing teams for spending some of your summer keeping the grounds looking great. We could not have done it without your help and support. We will be looking for your help again next year.

If you are interested in joining the P&F committee to help keep the church in good working order, we meet the first Tuesday of the month in the kitchen. We can use all levels of talent and a willingness to lend a hand. Please contact Kirk Reno and Scott Shoun.

KirkWood Silver is off to the theater!

Congregational Care

We have a block of 20 tickets for The Williamsburg Players' performance of "Squabbles," a comedy, on **Saturday, November 13**, at 2:00 p.m. The play is about a lawyer and his wife expecting their first child. His parents' home has burned down, and they have to move in with the young couple, creating a house full of squabbles!

The cost of the ticket is \$15. Sign up in the Narthex, and pay Gloria Griffin by cash or check. You can contact Gloria at 757-719-0995. The theater is located at 200 Hubbard Lane in Williamsburg.

COVID protocols will be in place. The theater requires masks even for those vaccinated, and social distancing will be encouraged. The entire cast and staff have been vaccinated, and a new air filtering system has been recently installed. Also, the theater is frequently cleaned.

Looking ahead, December 16 is the date for KirkWood Silver to celebrate Christmas together! We will watch a Christmas movie and enjoy Christmas goodies! Come to the Fellowship Hall at 1:30 p.m. for Christmas spirit, fellowship, and a heart-warming story. Watch the newsletter and bulletin for more details.

BLOOD DRIVE UPDATE

Outreach



The final 2021 Kirkwood Blood Drive is scheduled for **THURSDAY, November 18, from 2-7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall**. As of this date, I do not have the Red Cross requirements for masks and vaccinated donors. 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. 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 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.

Tentative 2022 dates (all Thursdays) are: February 17, May 19, August 18 and November 17. These dates will be confirmed after Session has reviewed and published the 2022 calendar.

October Session Highlights

Session

Summary of the October 2021 Session Meeting

As usual, the meeting started with a prolonged, dedicated time of prayer for KirkWood, its people, and its mission.

- Session set a congregational meeting for October 31, the purpose of which is to vote on the new class of elders.
- Session took an advisory vote to affirm the slate of new elders coming from the Nominating Committee.
- The Administration Committee did an orientation about the 2022 budget, and asked committee chairs to work on their budgets between now and the November 21 Session meeting.
- The Stewardship Committee presented its plans for "stewardship season" this fall (from late October to late November).
- The December Session meeting was moved from December 21 to December 14.
- Pastor Chris and Toni Fisher offered a report on the October 19 meeting of the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia.



Helping Neighbors Near & Far

Outreach

Clothing for the Homeless and the Needy

There is an unending need for all types of clothing for the homeless and the needy. These needs include gently used and new items:

- ◆ Shoes of all types — and boots
- ◆ Socks
- ◆ Undergarments—yes, bras and panties too
- ◆ Pants — dressier pants as well
- ◆ Shirts
- ◆ Sweaters and sweatshirts
- ◆ Jackets
- ◆ Gloves, hats, and scarves
- ◆ Backpacks

Your donations can be brought to KirkWood and placed in the Clothing Donations box in the Narthex, or contact Wendy Barrick (757-870-9642) if you need help in getting donations delivered. Monetary donations and clothing can also be brought to LINK at 10403 Warwick Blvd., Newport News.

Won't you help?

Shoebox Ministries

At this time every year we participate in **Operation Christmas Child** by donating shoeboxes filled with toys and other special items for needy children throughout the world. Shoeboxes and instructions for packing these boxes — for a boy or for a girl — can be picked up in the Narthex.

Completed shoeboxes, along with a \$9 donation to cover shipping, are due by **Monday, November 22**. There is an option of paying for a prepackaged shoebox at a cost of \$25, shipping included at: samaritanaspurse.org/buildonline.



Contact Wendy Barrick (757-870-9642) if you have questions.





Learning to Welcome Others

Christian Education



Christian Education is learning Christian Hospitality through lessons in “Welcome All.” As written in the practice guide, “We are grounding ourselves in the idea of being intentional and authentic as we offer a genuine welcome to all God’s people.”

Whether you meet with us at 8:30 or 11 a.m., or virtually, try expanding the lesson at home with these ideas:

Strangers to Friends

Be welcoming to your intergenerational church family:

- ◆ Host a walk-and-talk for your church community at a local trail
- ◆ Advertise your attendance at a free music concert
- ◆ Adopt a grand-friend

Service with a Smile

- ◆ Prepare food for veterans
- ◆ Volunteer at a 5K run to pass out water, or even make a sign to cheer
- ◆ Donate cookies to a teacher staff room, first responders, or behind-the-scene workers

Create a Family Ritual

- ◆ Bring a flower from your garden to every new neighbor
- ◆ Host a BBQ for returning college students each spring

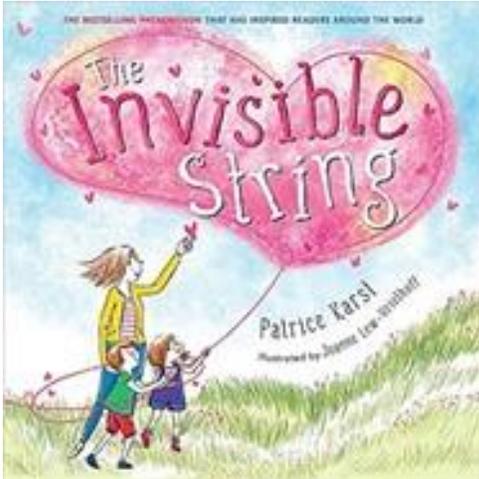
Welcoming Art -

- ◆ Have a place where family and friends can add to a canvas with ‘word art’



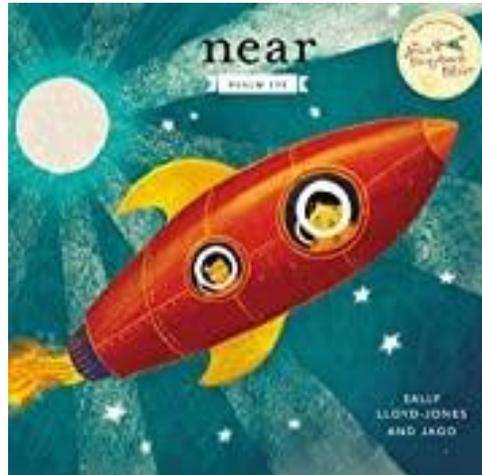
Children's Ministry

Christian Education



The Invisible String will help if you are experiencing separation anxiety or dealing with loss. It opens discussions about how love connects us all.

Near: Psalm 139 is a board book that teaches that God is always with you.



The One O'Clock Miracle shows the power of Jesus' words through incredible illustrations and with the story based on John 4.

