

KirkWood Kronicle

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

November 2022



KirkWood Family,

First off, let me say a big thanks to all of you who gave us so much great feedback during the recent “Becoming” Sunday series on how we can continue to build a “community” here at KirkWood. (Remember those orange slips in the bulletin?)

Groups are smarter than individuals, and all your replies are helping us be smarter about mapping the future of KirkWood.

Beginning in early 2023, you can look forward at least three new ways to connect with each other, learn together, and build relationships here at KirkWood, each of which had a high level of interest from the congregation:

- We’ll start a monthly walking group. More accurately said, we’ll restart it, given that we did it a few times during the height of COVID.
- We’ll offer you the chance to build an intentional spiritual friendship with one to two others at KirkWood. First, we’ll give you the chance to learn about “spiritual friendship” and what’s entailed, and then we’ll give you the chance to try it out with a few others at KW. A big bonus to these relationships is that you do them according to your own schedule: You can meet at Starbucks during the week, at church when it’s convenient for you, or even on Zoom. You’ll find that there’s nothing quite like the spiritual discipline of friendship: you turn toward each other, see each other fully, and listen to each other well, and you turn together toward God.



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.



- We’re working on the idea of having a monthly seminar to cover topics of interest. This would be offered in person, but then also recorded for viewing on our YouTube channel later on as your schedule allows.

I hope at least one of those ideas excites you. Stay tuned.

Let me finish with a reminder from Mike Ayers, pastor of The Brook Church in Houston, Texas, about the New Testament marks of authentic biblical “community” as seen in The Acts of the Apostles:

There is nothing like real community. Once you’ve experienced it, nothing else will make do. Let’s nurture this bond and closeness here at KirkWood!

- 1) Full Devotion to Christ and His Cause: “Halfhearted, semi-devoted people rarely accomplish anything of value. Part of the character of a God-honoring community is full devotion and passion toward the things that matter most.”
- 2) Anticipation of God’s Supernatural Work: “People want to be a part of something God-sized. In truth, God stands ready to work in and through a willing community who follows Him with faith and courage.”
- 3) A Strong Commitment to One Another: “A Christ-honoring community displays loyalty, dependability, mutual support, respect, and grace to one another. They are not just unified... They make unity work. They know it takes effort. It means letting go of petty differences and self-centered agendas. It also results from the core culture of the church believing that what we are to one another is as important as what we’re doing together.”
- 4) Generosity in Meeting Needs: “In the course of achieving mission together, needs arise within individuals. People become disheartened. We experience distress. We incur personal hardships. We all have struggles. In biblical community, people are not blind to the needs of others, and they respond by seeking to assist, encourage, and generously meet needs.”
- 5) Laughter and Fellowship: “People in healthy Christian community enjoy downtime. They know they must give effort and hard work, but they also spend a measure of time in fellowship and relaxation. They eat together, laugh together, and pursue common interests outside of work or ministry. This provides levity to offset the sometimes-difficult work that people are doing, and it also allows them to get to know each other in a real world context.”
- 6) A Sense of Shared Destiny from God: “Along with the sense of awe that resulted from seeing God answer prayer, those in the first church saw evidence that God was doing something outside their requests or expectations. They saw that God was doing a work of His own and that they were connected to a power beyond them. This was a work that transcended their





efforts and connected them to God’s eternal purpose. God was transforming the real lives of people...and this created a sense of shared destiny—a feeling that they were being swept along by the current of God’s Spirit...”

There is nothing like real community. Once you’ve experienced it, nothing else will make do. Let’s nurture this bond and closeness here at KirkWood! You in?

Warmly,
Pastor Chris

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Special Dates and Upcoming Events

- November 1 – All Saints’ Day
- November 5 – Zoo Field Trip
- November 6 – Daylight Saving Time Ends (turn clocks back); Food Pantry Collection
- November 7-15 – Pastor Chris on Vacation
- November 11 – Veterans Day
- November 12 – Military Appreciation Potluck at 10 a.m.
- November 13 – H.O.P.E. Offering
- November 19 – Fall Clean Up
- November 20 – Hanging of the Greens, Christ the King Sunday
- November 24 – Thanksgiving (Office Closed)



Session Update

Session



October Meeting Summary:

- ◇ Approved Mike Fore to be Session Clerk for 2023.
- ◇ Approved a Christmas Day worship service (details TBD).
- ◇ Reviewed the progress made on our "Becoming" goals and action items from the summer.
- ◇ Reviewed the feedback we received about how to build a stronger community here at KirkWood during the "Becoming" series in September, and approved three ideas for implementation in early 2023. (See Pastor Chris' article this month for more details.)
- ◇ Reviewed Pastor Chris' job description, and conducted an annual review for Pastor Chris.
- ◇ Received updates on several items in the works for the Property and Facilities and Technology Committees.

Congregational Care Round-up

Congregational Care

Military Appreciation Event: Please join us for a pot-luck brunch honoring those who have served and continue to serve in our nation's military on Saturday, November 12, at 10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. A sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex and online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4aafa62fa13-kirkwood10>. And as a reminder, please let the office know if you have any friends and/or family deployed so we may make specific mention of them at the brunch.



KirkWood Dining Partners: The Dining Partners will be celebrating a "KirkWood Thanksgiving" at 6 p.m. on November 19 at a location to be finalized. Stay tuned for details. The point of contact is Cindy Williamson, cwillic114@gmail.com.

KirkWood Silver: Join us at for lunch on Thursday, November 17, at 11:30 a.m. at Schlesinger's in Newport News. Yum!! Also, we have a block of 20 tickets for *A Christmas Carol* performed by the Williamsburg Players on Saturday, December 10, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15

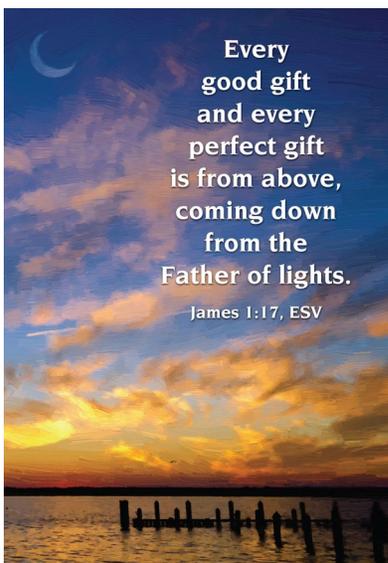
and are available from Gloria Griffin, 757-719-0995, or gloriagriffin@cox.net. The point of contact is Wanda Birch, wandjbirch@verizon.net. (Please see pages 7-8 for more information.)

Meals Support and Visitation: As always, if you or a loved one needs temporary help with meals for any reason or would like someone from the church to visit you or a family member, 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.

Generosity ~ Love in Action

Stewardship



Generosity is love in action.

I would like to be more generous...if I had extra time to give to help Link sort clothes; if I could add daily notes to my gratitude journal; if I could remember to pray for the people of our church who are mentioned in the Monday Memo; if inflation wasn't 8% this year, I could give more to the church; if I gave more food to the food collection for the Food Pantry; if I could have the time to attend a small group sponsored by KirkWood; if I could afford a financial pledge to the Lord.

Matthew (14:13-21), Mark (6:33-44), Luke (9:10-17), and John (6:1-14) write about a boy who practices generosity. After a long day of Jesus teaching the crowd of 5,000, Jesus told His disciples to feed the crowd. But no one had any food until a boy was generous. He gave his small loaves of bread and fish to Jesus, and all were fed with leftovers. The miracle of feeding 5,000 people is impressive, but the miracle of opening of one small heart was more impressive.

When GOD wants us to pay close attention, He repeats His message. In this case, He did it four times. There are only two miracles written about in all four Gospels. One is the Resurrection, and the other is the generosity of a boy giving his bread and fishes to feed thousands.

Generosity is the way we demonstrate GOD's love to us by sharing our resources with our neighbors. Calvin teaches that all gifts are "bestowed by God and entrusted to us to distribute for our neighbor's benefit; we are stewards of everything God has conferred." We are to be good stewards with our presence, prayers, and financial resources.

When you look at yourself, can you say, "I am born in the image of GOD, created to be loving and generous"? Starting November 6, the Sunday School classes will focus on generosity. Plan to attend the four lessons to learn more about generosity and how it affects you. On November 20, we will dedicate the financial commitments made by the people of KirkWood.

Hanging of the Greens

Worship

Advent is just around the corner. Come help us transform KirkWood for the season as we join together for the annual Hanging of the Greens on Sunday, November 20, at 11 a.m. Others will join us after the 11 a.m. Sunday School class lets out. Wherever we are at 12:30, we will stop to have lunch together in Fellowship Hall, thanks to our wonderful Congregational Care committee.

We will have boxes of decorations pre-staged at various locations around KirkWood. The more people helping, the merrier. We will have signups for volunteers and to help us plan for food starting two weeks before the 20.



Something New with Communion

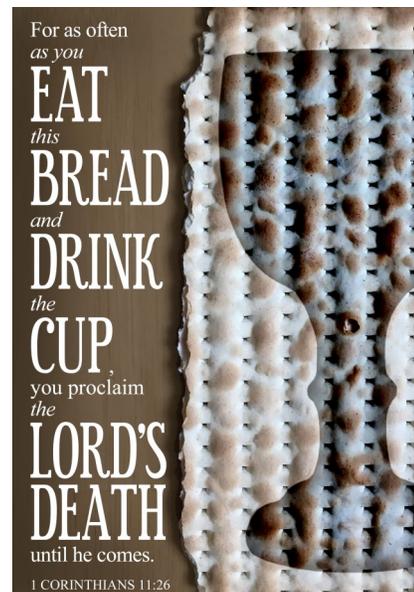
Worship

As we are finally emerging from our 2-½ year COVID challenge, we are slowly but surely finding out what the new normal is like at KirkWood. Thank you for your patience. During COVID, one of the mitigation practices that we put in place was to have separate communion

packets delivered to you in the Narthex in clear plastic bags. Because of ongoing awareness of and concerns about spreading germs, the days of passing a plate with bread are probably over.

We believe we have come up with a wonderful next step for Communion. We know that our COVID packets were functional but difficult to open. We have found a new communion packet that opens easily on one side for the bread, then opens easily on the other side for the juice. You will also have the option of picking a gluten-free packet. Better yet, it fits well in the communion plates that held the old communion cups.

Starting next month, we will start delivering these packets to you using the communion plates. Initially, as you enter the sanctuary, elders holding communion plates will invite you to select a communion packet as you are being seated. There could be other months where we pass the communion plate during the service and still others where we give you the option to come up front to receive the communion packet if able. Our hope is that this new method will not only be safe for all, but also lend itself to helping make Communion a more meaningful experience.



KirkWood Silver

Congregational Care

Schlesinger's Restaurant will be the scene for KirkWood Silver's November get-together. Thursday, November 17, is the date. Meet at the church at 10:45 a.m. to carpool or to catch a ride on the van, or meet us at the restaurant at 11:30. Schlesinger's offers a luncheon special menu with reasonable prices.

If you plan to join us, **please sign up in the Narthex beginning October 30, but not later than November 13.** If you need further details, contact Jim or Wanda Birch at 757-868-8651, or wandjbirch@verizon.net.

For our December Christmas celebration, KirkWood Silver plans to "make merry" at the Williamsburg Players performance of "A Christmas Carol" on Saturday, December 10. Show time is 2 p.m., but you should arrive by 1:45. The location of the James-York Playhouse is



200 Hubbard Lane, Williamsburg. We have a block of 20 tickets reserved at \$15 each, 16 of which are already taken. **Sign up in the Narthex as soon as possible.**

If more than 20 wish to attend, we will do our best to get more tickets. You may pay Gloria Griffin for the tickets by cash or check made out to her. The KW van will be going and will leave KirkWood parking lot at 1 p.m. You can contact Gloria Griffin at 757-719-0995, or catch her at church.

Blood Drive Update, Volunteers Needed

Mission

Our final 2022 KirkWood Blood Drive is scheduled for **THURSDAY, November 17, from 2-7 in Fellowship Hall.** Donors can schedule their appointments by going online to www.redcrossblood.org, sponsor code KirkwoodPC.

All donors are encouraged to complete the RAPID PASS on the day of the drive. RAPID PASS lets you do the prescreen process from your laptop, desktop 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 need assistance making your appointment, contact Cathy Hudgins, 757-869-2645 or hudgepudge@aol.com.

There is an urgent need for all types of blood now and always. Please prayerfully consider coming out and donating this lifesaving need.

Please mark your calendars for 2023 dates: February 16, May 18, August 17, and November 16, all 2-7 p.m.

If you have questions or would like to inquire as to how you can help at upcoming drives, please contact Cathy (contact information above).

Ways to Help

We are looking for a couple of volunteers to help with registration and in the canteen during the drive.

Also, we will be bringing back the meals for donors this month. If you are able to help at this drive by donating soup, crackers or homemade desserts, contact Donna Craig at 757-880-4072.

Monetary donations, to help defray the cost, will also be accepted.