

KirkWood Kronicle

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

October 2021

A Message from our Pastor Chris Shearer



Doesn't it feel like you and I are the rope in a game of tug of war right now? On the one hand, we feel like maybe, just maybe, things are beginning to get back to normal, or at least some semblance of normal. But on the other hand, every time we think we've extricated ourselves from the boa constrictor that is COVID, it wraps another coil around our legs.

So how do we keep at this? How do we not lose heart — at the attrition caused by the pandemic, or its seemingly unending duration? And how do we continue to move forward in hope, one step at a time?

I ran across a piece recently from Carey Nieuwhof, a Christian “leader of leaders” type (retired Canadian pastor and writer, now turned podcaster and church researcher) that addressed those very questions really well.

First, he makes a deft analogy about how COVID has irrevocably changed our world, and how to be the church together in it.

“The post-pandemic world is something like air travel after 9/11. People will fly again. It just will never be the same.

“In the same way taking your shoes off, carrying only small amounts of liquids, gels and aerosols, and moving through security is just normal now, new patterns of normal are emerging and still being shaped that will define post-pandemic life. —————→



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.



“And as much as you might think I don’t want to stand in long security lines and take my shoes and jacket off or buy tiny shampoos, that thinking is irrelevant. If you want to fly, that’s what you have to do.

“The world has changed, and leaders who try to go back to the way it was will increasingly find themselves trying to live in a world that no longer exists.”

After painting that picture, he offers some sage counsel about how to proceed. I want to home in on just one specific piece of advice he shares...

“Focus on the people you’ve reached, not the people you’ve lost.

“I spend a lot of time in the church world, but the same is true in many industries and businesses: some of the people you lost aren’t coming back, ever.

“Fitness enthusiasts who never missed a day in the gym bought Pelotons and turned their garage into a killer home gym. They won’t be back.

“The regular customer who never missed a Friday date night at your restaurant redid her kitchen and now only shows up once a month.

“And some people who used to attend church regularly but were spiritually on the bubble, well ... left. They won’t be back.

“Others found digital church to be a good option half the time. They’re going to show up less often.

“You can rail against that all day long. You’re not helping anybody when you do.

“Getting angry at people who changed is one of the best ways to ensure you never change ... you’ll stay angry at the past while everyone else walks into the future.

“There’s a group of new people coming in. Maybe it’s small. But it’s there. The new people don’t know who left. They don’t know what used to be. They like what is.

“What you focus on expands. So change your focus.”

God and His work are not daunted by the pandemic. If the “gates of Hell” cannot prevail against God’s beloved community called the church (Matthew 16.18), then neither can a virus or its wake.

KirkWood family, remember, as he put it — what we focus on expands.

Warmly, Pastor Chris

“Focus on the people you’ve reached, not the people you’ve lost.”



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Special Dates/Upcoming Events

- October 3 — World Communion Sunday
- October 10 — Clergy Appreciation Day
- October 23 — Pumpkin Palooza
- October 31 — Reformation Sunday



Appreciating Your Pastor

Many people have complex relationships with their pastors because faith, church, and God involve a mix of emotions. We have particular ideas about church practices, congregational priorities, the minister's use of time, money, authority, and more.

But most pastors are deeply devoted to Christ and believe that God has called them to serve in a certain place. They have the best of intentions and work hard to share the good news of the gospel. So in honor of Pastor Appreciation Month in October, consider the following:

God doesn't call the qualified; he qualifies the called. Your pastor may need time to learn and develop certain skills. (Everyone does!) Bless pastors with your patience.

We don't change the message; the message changes us. You probably won't like all your pastor's sermons or newsletter columns. But instead of complaining, ponder that something may rub you the wrong way because God is trying to change you. Keep an open mind and heart.

If a church wants a "better" pastor, it just needs to pray for the one it has. Pray often and caringly for your pastors, church leaders and their families. The role is challenging, so support them spiritually and ask God to reveal His love and grace to these special servants.



September Session Highlights

Session

SUMMARY OF THE 9/21 SESSION MEETING

- Maybe most importantly, every monthly Session meeting now starts with a time of dedicated prayer for KirkWood, its people, its mission, its present, and its future. In this way, Session is modeling that Christian leadership begins with humility and dependence; we simply cannot do what we do, or go where God says go, without His empowerment and direct help.
- Session approved an approximately \$16,000 expense to replace the ductwork that runs between the kitchen and the pastor's office due to mold issues.
- Our monthly financial report shows that we're \$41,000 in the black for 2021. Our giving is right at the projected levels, plus we've received a payment of \$18,000 from the county to put in the sidewalk along our side of Hampton Highway. But the big savings has been on expenses: We're \$91,000 under budgeted expenses right now, as committees have been very judicious in their spending this year.
- And thanks to all the committees who faithfully do the work of the church, and report to Session each month: To name only three examples, the Stewardship Committee is hard at work planning our upcoming "stewardship season," the Missions Committee is managing the many facets of the Pumpkin Patch, and the Christian Education Committee has launched a single new curriculum for all ages this fall.

URGENT NEED — MEALS FOR VETS

Mission

KirkWood provides meals for two veterans' homes (five men in each home) every Monday and Thursday. These homes support vets transitioning from homelessness. We need your help.

Please consider assisting in this mission by fixing a casserole for five men. You can sign up in the Narthex, through [Signup Genius](#), or call Gloria at 757-223- 4104/757-719-0995 or Zora at 757-833-6406/757-869-3784. They will sign you up, answer questions, and arrange for pickup.



Fall Education Program Underway

Christian Education



A living faith is so much more than simply believing in God. Jesus called all sorts of people to follow him to God, showing concrete ways to love God and one another. When we do these actions together, faith develops, lives change, and communities transform.

Sunday class times
8:30 Adults
11:00 Children, youth, and adults

Come, let's grow together

Develop new friendships
Deepen and widen your faith life

Christian Education has begun the fall schedule with four weeks to focus on "Follow Jesus." We explore what it means to see through God's "lens of love." Feel free to use some of these ideas to practice at home.

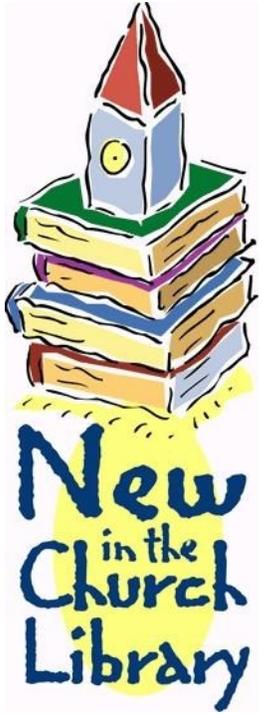
*Walking a path • Sending notes • Sharing food • Paying attention
Inviting others to "come and see" • Loving neighbors near and far • Loving self*



Children in Worship

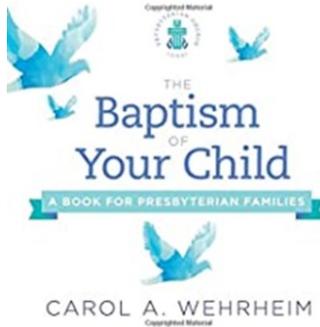
Young children in worship is a gift to the church and reminds us that our church family is growing. Whether they stay in worship or take advantage of nursery or GLORY time, they are forming a relationship with God and learning from those around them. Each week provides a window of opportunity for them to watch others and form questions about the liturgical behavior. Give parents a smile of encouragement and know that you are helping plant a seed for future generations. See Jeannine for information on the Acolyte program, GLORY time and bags, nursery, and more. Take an extra step in children's ministry by signing up to help at <https://rebrand.ly/kidmin>.





This I Know: Seeing God in the World He Made is based on the song “Jesus Loves Me.”

Experience God’s wonder as you join the family on their road trip.



The Baptism of Your Child answers common questions members may have about having their children baptized, and it includes prayers and ideas for helping children grow in their faith. It is not written as a story book but rather a reference and refresher.

Congregational Care

Congregational Care

Military Appreciation Pot-Luck Dinner: In recognition of Veterans Day, on Sunday, November 7 at 6 p.m., KirkWood will honor its own veterans who have served or are still serving in our nation’s military services. Please come and bring a dish to share.



KirkWood Silver: KirkWood Silver has a luncheon and interesting program planned for Thursday, October 21, 11:30 a.m. at KirkWood. Please see details in the article on page 7.

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.

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





Adult Fellowship

Congregational Care

Dining Partners are going Greek!

Please plan to join us on Saturday, October 9, 6 p.m. at Yannas Taverna. The restaurant is located at 12715-A Warwick Boulevard in Newport News. If you take City Center Boulevard across to Warwick Boulevard, the restaurant will be directly across at the end of the strip mall.

Dining Partners is for everyone who enjoys good food and fellowship — no commitment necessary. Come out and enjoy your fellow KirkWoodians.

Please indicate if you plan to attend by emailing Cindy Williamson (cwillic114@gmail.com) or signing up in the Narthex. Hope to see you! Cindy

Men's Social Group

Men, are you looking to break out of a COVID isolation rut? Ready to socialize with other Christian men in a casual setting? A few guys have been doing that this spring and summer, visiting brew pubs, going to a Peninsula Pilots minor league ball game, and developing friendships. We invite you to join us this fall.



Men's Fellowship

We meet twice a month, usually on Saturday afternoons for a casual hour or two. You are welcome to bring a friend. No agenda or preparation, just come and relax with friends. Contact Bruce Buchanan at 757-725-6001 or rbruce.buchanan@gmail.com if you are interested.



York County EMTs to speak with KirkWood Silver

On October 21, KirkWood Silver will get together at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall to enjoy each other's company and an Olive Garden soup, salad, and breadsticks lunch. Following lunch, we will hear from several York County EMTs and 911 workers who will talk with us about calling 911 and what happens afterward. They will also tell us about the county's new Heads Up program.

Please let us know if you plan to come by signing up in the Narthex October 3, 10, and 17, and indicating which Olive Garden soup is your favorite! The cost is to be determined but will be minimal. Watch the bulletin for that detail and reminders! If you have questions, contact Bill and Carolyn Gilbert at 757-868-8953, or Steve and Gloria Griffin at 757-223-4104.



Family Fall Fun!

Outreach

Our annual **Pumpkin Patch** is open! Many thanks to all who came out to unload pumpkins on October 2. But we still need your help.

The [Pumpkin Patch SignUpGenius](#) is up and running. Please volunteer for a two-hour shift. The area will be set up to keep distances, have plexiglass shields, recommend masks under the canopy, and procedures to keep surfaces cleaned.

Please sign up for your date and time for the Pumpkin Patch. (See flyer, right, for more information.)

KirkWood Presbyterian Church

PUMPKIN PATCH IS OPEN!

OCTOBER 2ND - OCTOBER 31ST

ALL DONATIONS GO TOWARDS MISSIONS

Monday - Thursday: 2 pm - 7 pm
 Friday: 2 pm - 8 pm
 Saturday: 10 am - 8 pm
 Sunday: noon until 6 pm

PUMPKIN PALOOZA ON OCTOBER 23RD 12 - 5 PM
MOVIE ON THE LAWN ON OCTOBER 29TH 8 - 10 PM

KIRKWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Pumpkin Palooza

PUMPKIN PATCH
CRAFTS
FOOD TRUCKS

INFLATABLE SLIDE
GAMES
AND MORE!

OCTOBER 23, 2021
 ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE FROM
 NOON TO 5 P.M.

The **Pumpkin Palooza** is right around the corner (October 23), and we need your help. We'll have stations for crafts, food, science, games, stories, bounce slide, food truck, and more. We need lots of help starting at 11 a.m. for setup and running through 6 p.m. for clean-up. There will be a SignUp Genius sent through the Midweek minute. Each shift will be two hours. Any questions please call, text or email Toni Fisher, 719-237-1156, fishert1594@gmail.com.





We are also asking for donations of candy for the Pumpkin Patch and the Palooza.

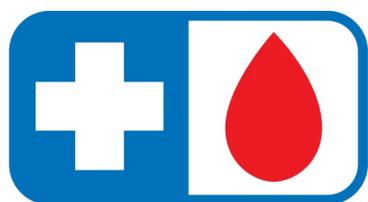


We need non-chocolate and non-nut candies (think candy corn, Skittles, Starburst, etc.) to pass out with every pumpkin purchase and at the Pumpkin Palooza.

And one last fun event for October is a Movie on the Lawn on October 29. We'll have popcorn, water, S'mores. Our movie will be "Bedtime Stories."

BLOOD DRIVE UPDATE

Outreach



G I V E
Blood

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 RAPID PASS 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. **2022 dates have not been confirmed.**



PUMPKINS & STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship

It is now October, and it is the season of the year for KirkWood's Pumpkin Patch. When you arrive on the church property you will see hundreds and hundreds of pumpkins that need to be sold. But how do these pumpkins relate to stewardship? During the past few months, you have read numerous articles from your Stewardship committee about your time, your talents, your money, and your prayers.

Your time

The pumpkins arrive in a large semi-trailer truck. They need to be unloaded on a Saturday morning (second delivery, October 16). When you help to unload the truck you are giving your time to the church. Every day in October there are numerous shifts of two hours each to sell the pumpkins. Once again, giving of your time.

Your Talents

On the last Saturday of October, the 23rd, the church needs your talents to help with Pumpkin Palooza. Our Outreach Committee (Toni Fisher, fishermd1@gmail.com) has spent hours organizing this event, and they are looking for volunteers to help.

Your Money

Buy your pumpkins at the church, and an extra donation would be appreciated. All the profits are used for mission projects.

Your Prayers

Please pray for the success of the Pumpkin Patch. Many people learn about KirkWood for the first time because of their visit to the Patch. It is their contact with KirkWood. Pray that the monies from the Patch are helpful to all the organizations we support.

The Fall Pumpkin Patch is a unique opportunity to express your stewardship in a wonderful environment and to enjoy a day outside in October.



Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.

Hebrews 13:2 NIV