

# KirkWood Kronicle

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

October 2022



KirkWood Family,

This will be the last piece, the third of three, on how we can reach, care for, and enfold younger adults and families.

In this article, I'd like to pass along how the input we received in our recent questionnaire for younger adults and families syncs up with some of the larger scale studies of Millennials and Gen Zers, and, of course, how that might useful for KirkWood going forward.

First, in what is surely no surprise to anyone, younger adults, especially those with kids, are busy, and their time is stretched thin. Often weekends are full of extracurricular activities or are cherished as family time. And, of course, each family's schedule and needs are different, so while one younger adult might value something convenient like a Zoom gathering or group, another might really want an in-person get-together.

So what's the takeaway for KirkWood? At the least, as a church with many retirees, we need to remember that those we hope to reach aren't us; they don't have the time we do, they aren't able to meet when we do sometimes, and so on. We'd also need to remember that a menu of several options for fellowship and spiritual growth is superior than just one for each, because no single option can possibly work for all younger adults and families.

A second insight could be simply summarized "kids, kids, kids." That is, younger families need events or gatherings at which their kids are welcomed and included. Additionally, if we want them to come and join in, we may need to provide childcare in order for them to do that.



## 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.



That means KirkWood needs to be intentional about making everything it does family-friendly. A small but important recent example would be having an inflatable slide for the kids at the September church picnic. The upcoming Pumpkin Palooza event would be another. But moreover, we can ask our own younger families what kinds of events and gatherings best suit them, as well as plan intergenerational outings that engage all ages.

A third and final insight from the younger adults questionnaire is that they really value good teaching and opportunities to learn. They'd like to be able to access that teaching on their own time as their schedules allow, and they'd like to be able to refer their friends to that teaching too. Our Session (elder group) at KirkWood has already acted on this in one particular way, deciding to create a resources and sermon archive online at our website. But we know there's more we can do here, which leads me to ask—what ideas do you have for how we can expand the learning opportunities and resources at KW?



*What ideas do you have for how we can expand the learning opportunities and resources at KW?*



While there are other great insights from the recent questionnaire, the three above are the ones that were mentioned multiple times, and in them we find concrete steps we can take as a congregation which hopes to have a next generation. They point the way; let's have the wisdom to explore their implications for KirkWood, and the courage to act upon them!

Warmly,  
Pastor Chris





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### Special Dates and Upcoming Events

- October 1-31 – Pastor Appreciation Month
- October 1 – Pumpkin Delivery, 9:30 a.m.
- October 2 – World Communion Sunday, Food Pantry collection
- October 9 – H.O.P.E. (Helping Other People Eat) Offering
- October 15 –Pumpkin Delivery
- October 20 – KirkWood Silver Luncheon – Water Street Grille, 11 a.m.
- October 22 – Pumpkin Palooza, 11 a.m.
- October 23 – Brunch with Pastor Chris
- October 30 – Reformation Sunday

## Session Update

### Session



### October Meeting Summary:

- ◇ Approved KW's Advent "Hanging of the Greens" for Sunday, November 20, after church.
- ◇ Moved its November meeting date to November 29.
- ◇ Approved the updated membership roster submitted by the Clerk.
- ◇ Approved the "KirkWood Family Garden" plan, including the funding proposal. (See Stewardship, page 9, for details.)



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- ◇ Approved the Worship Committee recommendation to modify the sanctuary seating to better accommodate those who might have limited mobility (walkers, wheelchairs, etc.).
  - ◇ The Technology Committee is working on a proposal for a church texting mechanism to improve our congregational communication, which will be presented to Session at its October 18 meeting.
  - ◇ Session approved the Missions Committee request to allot \$2,500 for an upcoming wheelchair ramp-building project.
  - ◇ The Nominating Committee reported that it had a full new class of elders to present to the congregation, so Session approved a Congregational Meeting on October 9 after the worship service for that purpose.
  - ◇ Session worked on and approved a list of 2022-2023 school year action items to help us lean into what God is already doing among us, which will be communicated to the congregation during the last week of the current "Becoming" Sunday series.

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## Congregational Care Round-up

### Congregational Care

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**Military Appreciation Event:** Save the Date. We will be honoring our active military and veterans at a pot-luck on **Saturday, November 12**, details to be announced in the near future.



**Trip to the Virginia Zoo:** Another Save the Date. We are tentatively planning an all-ages trip to the zoo in Norfolk on Saturday, November 5. Stay tuned for details.

**KirkWood Dining Partners:** The Dining Partners will be supping at the Vineyards in Kiln Creek on Saturday, October 15, at 6:30 p.m. We'd love to have you join the group! The point of contact is Cindy Williamson, [cwillic114@gmail.com](mailto:cwillic114@gmail.com).

**KirkWood Silver:** Join us at 11 a.m. on Thursday, October 20, at the Water Street Grill in Yorktown for lunch followed by a visit to the American Revolution Museum. Wanda Birch ([wandjbirch@verizon.net](mailto:wandjbirch@verizon.net)) is the point of contact. See pages 10-11 for information on other upcoming events.

**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.

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## It's Pumpkin Time at KirkWood!

### Mission / Outreach

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The annual Pumpkin Patch is in full swing. Our first delivery arrived on October 1, and I hope you have signed up to work in the Patch. KirkWood will get another delivery on October 15, so there will be plenty of pumpkins all month.

The Pumpkin Patch will operate from October 1-31.

Hours are:

- \* Monday-Thursday 2 p.m.–7 p.m.
- \* Friday 2 p.m.–8 p.m.
- \* Saturday 10 a.m.–8 p.m.
- \* Sunday 12 p.m.–6 p.m.



The SignUpGenius site is up and live for you to volunteer for one or more two-hour shifts. The website is: <https://rebrand.ly/2022Patch>. We need LOTS of volunteers and you won't be alone. There are always two to three folks on each two-hour period.

This is KirkWood's mission for the month of October. We sell pumpkins to support the Navajo Nation growers as well as raise funds to support local, national, and international missions. In 2021 and 2022, KirkWood was able to distribute more than \$44,000 to support our hunger ministry, assist the homeless, rehabilitate homes, react to disasters, and support refugees in the Ukraine.

Most important, the Pumpkin Patch is a great opportunity to engage with our community friends and neighbors, a family-friendly and welcoming place, and a time for us to show God's love and our joy. Join the fun.



## Pumpkin Palooza

And whatever you do,  
in word or deed,  
do everything in the name

*of the Lord Jesus,  
giving thanks*

to God the Father  
through him.

Colossians 3:17



As part of the Pumpkin Patch, the Mission and Outreach committees have planned a Pumpkin Palooza on Saturday, October 22, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The “Palooza” is KirkWood’s way to say thanks to our neighbors for supporting the Patch with a day of fun.

There will be food trucks, games for kids, bounce houses, and time to enjoy the Fall weather. You can support the Pumpkin Palooza with your time. Go to the SignUpGenius website to volunteer. Lots of volunteers are needed to greet visitors,

monitor the bounce houses, and help with the games and activities with the children. Invite your neighbors to attend. There are invitation cards at the Pumpkin Patch tent or at the Visitor table in the narthex.

# Blood Drive Update, Volunteers Needed

## Mission

Our final 2022 Kirkwood Blood Drive is scheduled for Thursday, November 17, from 2-7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Donors can schedule their appointments by going online to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://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.

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

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.





**We are hoping to resume the meals for donors and are looking for a volunteer or a couple of volunteers to coordinate the food during the drives.** We plan to have a consistent menu of BBQ, baked beans, slaw, chips, and a dessert.



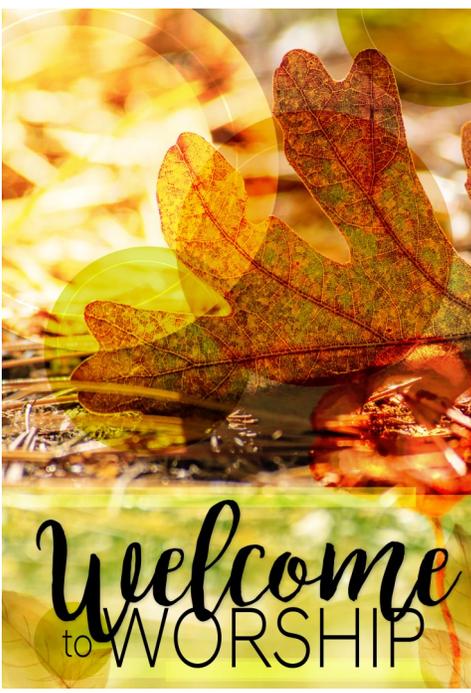
It would involve setting up the food, etc., around noon on the day of the drive and getting church volunteers to donate everything except the BBQ, which we are hoping to get funding to cover. Once we find a volunteer, we can, once again, offer our donors a meal. Please feel free to reach out to Cathy Hudgins if you would like to discuss further.

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## Sanctuary Improvements

### Worship

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There are changes for the better with the seating in the sanctuary. We have created ample seating areas in the middle of the sanctuary to better accommodate those folks with mobility limitations.

Over the years, we have improved parking spaces, bathroom facilities, and entrance doors for those with mobility limitations, but until now, we hadn't made modifications to the sanctuary to better accommodate those folks.

We have removed the small pews from two rows on either side of the center aisle of the sanctuary. Now there is the option of having up to four rows with a chair with room for a walker next to it without it having to be taken away or stored in the aisle during worship. There is also an option for having room for a full wheelchair without it having to be in the aisle or stuck in the front of the sanctuary.

Making it easier for all to join us for a meaningful worship experience each week is the driving force behind these important new modifications.



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# Remembering our Neighbors' Needs

## Mission

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**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.

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# Pumpkins and Stewardship

## Stewardship

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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. On the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month, you have been hearing how many different ways there are to express your stewardship commitment throughout the church.

**Your time:** The pumpkins arrive in a large semi-trailer truck. The second load of pumpkins needs to be unloaded on October 15. Check the Sunday bulletin for the time to help. When you come to 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.

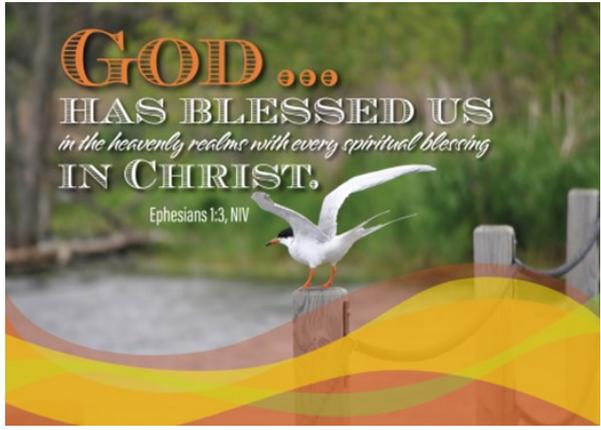
**Your Talents:** On Saturday, October 22, the church needs your talents to help with Pumpkin Palooza, which is a fun-filled outreach event for all. Our Outreach Committee (Toni Fisher, [fishermd1@gmail.com](mailto:fishermd1@gmail.com)) and the Mission Committee (Connie Barlow,





[conniebarlow9@gmail.com](mailto:conniebarlow9@gmail.com) ) have 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 proceeds are shared with the Navajo Nation in New Mexico who grow the pumpkins, and KirkWood uses its share to support many 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..

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# KirkWood Family Gardens

## Stewardship

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In order to provide good stewardship of the KirkWood property and enhance the site as a place of inspiration, enjoyment, and education, the Session has approved a plan to develop the Wee KirkWood and Prayer Path areas into woodland garden areas using sustainable native perennial plant species.

A unique resource that we have as the “church in the woods” is, indeed, our woods. We envision a time to come in which the site is a very welcoming place of respite, refreshment, inspiration, and even eco-stewardship education for the community.

Wouldn't it be nice if members of the public one day will say: “Oh yes, KirkWood, that's the church with the pumpkins and the nice shady nature walk where we take the kids, and the people are so friendly.”

It will take a few years to realize that vision. Time to get started. We plan to stick with plant species native to the mid-Atlantic Coastal Plain. These will fend well for themselves after





establishment and also function well as food sources for the local animal life. We've a plan now launched for the 2022 fall planting, with most plants already on order and arriving. We'll work with young, dormant plants, both for economy and to give them the best chance to thrive in their new home.

If you'd like to contribute some time to the installation and care team, contact Charlie Reece at [dna-srf@verizon.net](mailto:dna-srf@verizon.net). If you'd like to contribute to funding the KirkWood Family Gardens plants and materials costs, a designated fund has been established for that.

Some initial tasks are:

- ◇ Inventory of the trees and shrubs already at home in this part of the KirkWood site.
  - ◆ Don't worry, "There's an app for that."
  - ◆ Enjoy the fun of discovering that all the (plant) neighbors have names.
- ◇ Obtain and stage compost and mulch materials, three yards each.
- ◇ Prep each location marked to be a plant's new home.
- ◇ Assist with planting.
- ◇ Weekly check and water-as-needed duty for a section of the gardens, shared, to see the plants through their first year.

Come, share life in the garden. Discover and share fresh grace in the process.

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## KirkWood Silver Fall Lineup

### Congregational Care

Yorktown's Riverwalk will be the destination for KirkWood Silver's October fellowship. We will meet at Water Street Grill for lunch at **11 a.m. on Thursday, October 20**. Join us for great food and delightful company! We are meeting earlier than normal because the restaurant doesn't take reservations. Also, we are hoping to eat outside if the weather is nice! Following lunch, we plan to go up the hill to The American Revolution Museum.

Sign up in the Narthex through Oct. 16. The van will be leaving promptly at 10:30 a.m., for those who prefer not to drive. If you need more information, contact Bill or Carolyn Gilbert at 757-868-8953 or [poqbill@verizon.net](mailto:poqbill@verizon.net).





On **November 17**, our KWS group will enjoy delicious lunch fare at Schlesinger's in Port Warwick, Newport News. Meet at Schlesinger's at 11:30, or take the van from the KirkWood parking lot, leaving promptly at 11.

KWS' Christmas celebration will be a theater matinee! We have a block of 20 tickets for Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* performed by the Williamsburg Players! **Saturday, December 10** is the date, and the time is 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$15 and can be purchased from Gloria Griffin. Contact Gloria at 757-719-0995. You also need to sign up in the Narthex right away!

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## Teen News & Update

### Christian Education

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#### **An Introductory Announcement**

We wanted to let you know that Diane Elder has resigned from being our Youth Director; she expressed her thanks for the chance to serve our youth over the last 14 months, and we are likewise grateful to her.

Below is our youth plan of action for the fall of 2022, and we'll likely add to it as the weeks and months unfold. As always if you have ideas for events, gatherings, outings, please let us know.

**As we continue in the Make Peace unit of study, the flow of when we will be meeting on Sundays will be changing a bit.** (See schedule next page.)

Many teens have expressed that their schedules are busy; there is work, sports, recovery from band competitions, etc. As a reflection of that, how we "teach" our teens will be changing a bit. We will be offering an in-person lesson every other week in the Youth Room. On the other weeks at 11 a.m., we encourage our teens to see opportunities within KirkWood. Volunteer in the nursery to assist with the preschoolers, reach out and seek to assist Mrs. Scott in the children's ministry times, both during and after the service. Once the Pumpkin Patch opens, there are many opportunities to sell pumpkins and provide support in the Patch.

On the weeks that teens will not be in a structured Sunday School lesson, please look for an email that will provide them with reflection verses and faith sharing opportunities.

Please know that as we try to adjust to a new schedule, there will be challenges and we welcome feedback for ways in which we can best meet our young adults' spiritual needs.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Shearer [pastorchriskwpc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorchriskwpc@gmail.com) or Christian Education Chair Christine Pregler [preglerweims@gmail.com](mailto:preglerweims@gmail.com).





## October Teen Schedule Make Peace Unit & Church Volunteer Events

**October 1 — PUMPKINS ARRIVED** — Many thanks to all who came out to help!

**October 2 — Understand Others** (How do we find common humanity?)

*In-Person Lesson, Youth Room*

Led by Arba Williamson and co-facilitated with Rachel Fisher.

**October 9**

- **Take Risks for Peace** (Connecting with others without judgment.)  
At-Home Lesson
- **KYG Meeting (Details coming soon!)**

**October 15 — 2nd load of pumpkins arrive — UNLOADING, 9 a.m. - Noon.** Bring gloves and wear clothes you don't mind getting dirty!

**October 16 — Being a Good Neighbor**

*In-Person Lesson, Youth Room*

**October 22 — Pumpkin Palooza, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

We need lots of volunteers to interact with the families and kids with crafts, games, and setting up. Last year we had almost 1,000 visitors!!! We'll have food trucks, bounce houses, and much more.

**October 23 — Being a Good Neighbor (Week 2)**

At-Home lesson

**October 30 — Practice Generosity study begins**

*In-Person lesson, Youth Room*





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# Adult Opportunities

## Christian Education

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(Adult Sunday School classes, which meet at 8:30 and 11 a.m., will continue to use the PCUSA *Follow Me* curriculum.)

### Fall Unit of Study – Make Peace

#### WHAT DOES *MAKE PEACE* MEAN?

There are many ways of understanding and living peace, from the absence of conflict to a quiet, inner calm. God has a vision for peace, or *shalom*, which is a world of wholeness and well-being for all creatures. God’s people need to keep this vision at the forefront of our minds and hearts.

Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9). This verse forms the centerpiece of Christian social ethics; Christians are called to work to cultivate peace within themselves and to share peace in the larger community.

Yet, to be human is to be in conflict, and lack of peace implies sin, separation from what God desires. Thus, human efforts toward making peace are filled with complexities. To put in place the vision of a wolf lying with a lamb (Isaiah 11:6) is no simple task. Beating swords into plowshares (Isaiah 2:4) involves worthy effort, but not all agree in the necessity of laying down the sword. Perhaps tilling the land is as important as defending it.

The curriculum writer for this practice observes that making peace is like climbing a mountain. There are many paths to the summit. Peacemakers need to identify the path they will navigate on their journey toward God’s peace.

#### FINDING THE PRACTICE IN THE BIBLE

The following biblical texts have been/will be used to explore the four dimensions of this practice.

#### Session One (September 18) — Know Peace

Isaiah 11:1–9; Matthew 5:9; Mark 4:35–41





Learning about God's vision of peace and understanding the complexities of peace can stir our creativity for making peace through inner work and outward action.

### **Session Two (September 25) — Take a Step Back**

Isaiah 2:2-4; Luke 1:46-55

The gulf between God's intention for peace and the brokenness that exists in God's creation demands addressing. But first, we step back to assess the systems and circumstances that contribute to poverty, violence, and injustice before embarking on the work of transformation.

### **Session Three (October 2) — Understand Others**

Matthew 8:1-3; Mark 2:13-17; John 4:1-30

We make peace by seeking to better understand one another. From this understanding, we come to know and experience interconnectedness and interdependence among God's people.

### **Session Four (October 9) — Take Risks for Peace**

Luke 10:25-37

We put faith into action by stepping out in transformational works for peace, even at risk to ourselves. We must nurture ways to create peace with such risk-taking.

Please join us on Sunday! We'd love for you to join us!

### **Looking Ahead....**

- **October 16-23** — Being a Good Neighbor (Mr. Rodgers Lesson)
- **November 16, 13, 20** — Practice Generosity
- **November 27-December 24** — Go Tell (Advent Study)
- **January 1** — New Year's Fellowship following church (no class)

*Christians are called to work to cultivate peace within themselves and to share peace in the larger community.*



# Wanted: Women Interested in Small Group

Christian Education

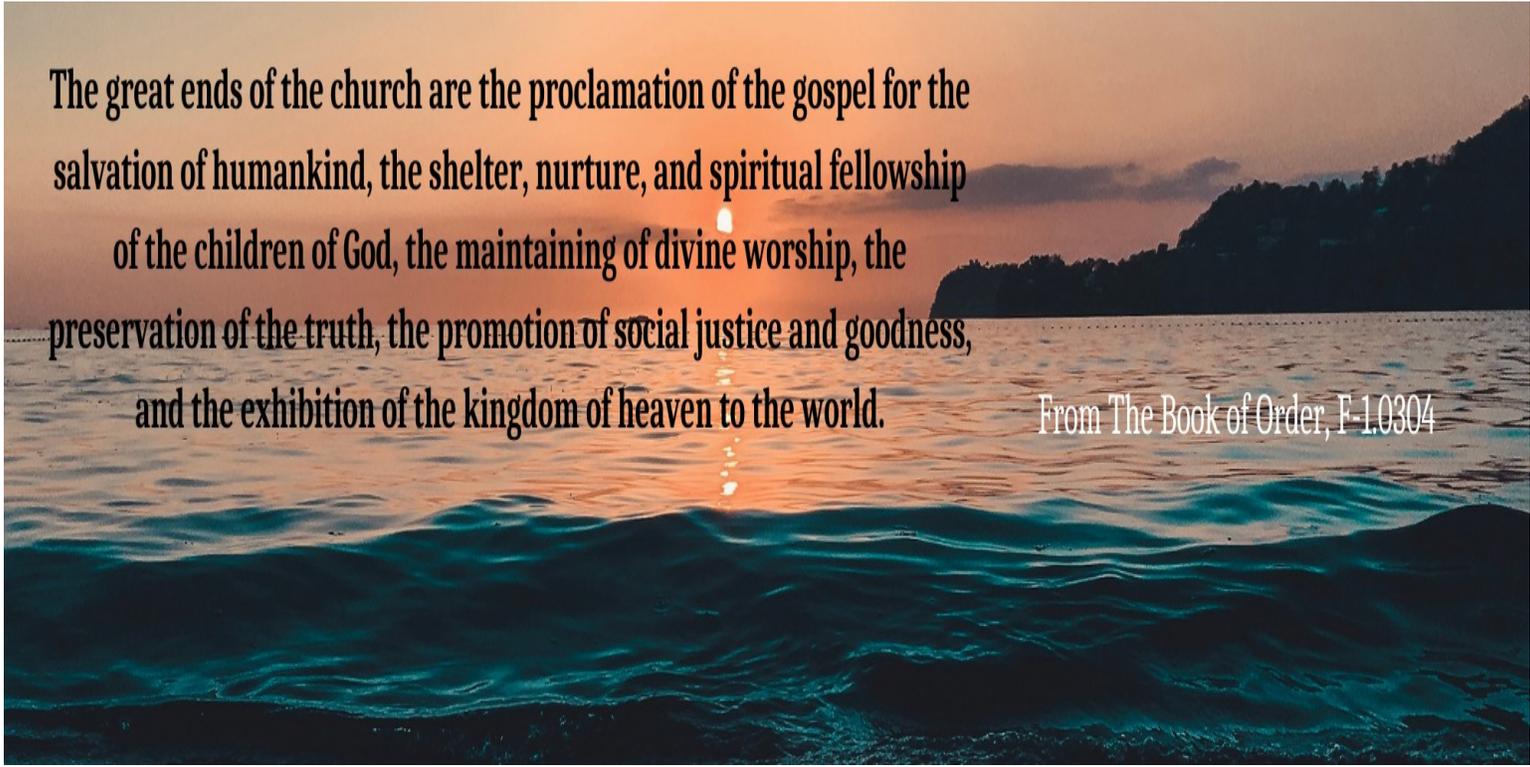


A women's bible study small group will begin this month via Zoom. Why Zoom? We have many female members who have reached out who are interested in attending but they have limitations — night driving, small children to get into bed, or the distance from the church is significant — but all would enjoy a time for women to support women, to laugh, cry, study the word and be lifted!

The goal is to meet two Thursdays a month via Zoom with a quarterly face-to-face get-together on a Sunday afternoon for a casual brunch. We will be using a hybrid of video, book, online studies and other materials to help us along the way!

If this is of any interest to you, please contact Christine Pregler via email at [preglerweims@gmail.com](mailto:preglerweims@gmail.com) and she will add you to the list.

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The great ends of the church are the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind, the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God, the maintaining of divine worship, the preservation of the truth, the promotion of social justice and goodness, and the exhibition of the kingdom of heaven to the world.

From The Book of Order, F-1.0304

**KirkWood Presbyterian Church**  
A Christian Community Growing Together,  
Knowing, Loving, and Serving Christ,  
to make Him known to all



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