

KirkWood Kronicle

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

September 2022



KirkWood Family,

This month's article will be part two of our follow-up learning on how to reach and enfold younger adults (something we covered in our "It's Up to You" series on July 10). What we cover this month is drawn primarily from two resources—a webinar offered through our Presbytery, "Hybrid Faith Formation," that half a dozen of us at KirkWood attended, and a leading book on the subject, "Always On – Practicing Faith in a New Media Landscape" by Angela Williams Gorrell.

Most of those under the age of 40 are "digital natives"—they've never known a world without the internet and/or smart phones. Gorrell in her book compares the seismic effect of this turn to the invention of the printing press, but argues that low literacy rates 400 years ago make the digital revolution even more impactful. Forty-five percent of all adults (of all ages) are online multiple times a day, while a quarter are online constantly: the younger you are, the more frequently you're online.

Whether we're conscious of it or not, we all live "hybrid lives" now. What's that mean? Simply that our online and offline worlds are merged with no clear line of demarcation between them. One facet shapes the other, and we move seamlessly back and forth between the two.

Too often, churches still think of and design ministry that is "dualistic" as opposed to hybrid. For example, offering in-person and livestreamed or recorded worship, while good, is



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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.



actually “dualistic” by definition: you are either in-person or online, and there’s no integration of the two. A truly “hybrid” approach would work to help the online participants interact with those attending in-person, and vice versa, with both groups have a role in the worship service.

Here are two more terms to learn: synchronous and asynchronous. The first term means that your event, group, class, or other similar opportunity happens in real time; the second means that you can engage on your own time. And, as you might guess, it’s vital to offer both. A synchronous offering is easy to imagine: a Zoom group get-together, a Sunday School class, etc., all happen at a specific time. Asynchronous resources are more like playlists or curated ways for you to explore and grow, our two weekly emails at KirkWood work this way...you can click through to any article or video or Bible passage you want whenever it suits you.



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Creating new online content isn’t nearly as significant as curating what’s already out there. Meaning—you don’t have to reinvent the wheel or produce your own lessons, videos, blogs, etc., from scratch. Instead, just be really choosy about what existing online resources you share or list for your church family. A good ballpark ratio is you should be creating only 20% of your online content/resources, and curating existing content/resources the other 80% of the time. It’s not hard to envision how a church website and/or social media presence might be transformed by this insight—we provide static, asynchronous study materials, we post helpful articles and videos on relevant subjects, you name it.

So here’s how these new concepts can help you map out a church life, faith formation, and community that’s more in line with how we all actually live in 2022: We should always be intentional to offer both synchronous and asynchronous components to our classes, groups, events, etc. Let’s flesh it out with this example—we might have a monthly in-person seminar recorded for viewing online by those who couldn’t attend, followed by take-home individual work or practicing, followed by an email exchange/dialogue about what we’re learning, what questions we still have, etc. Or how about this? We each read a chapter in a book, then those who can gather on Zoom to discuss in small breakout rooms, then we email the group ways to apply or use the chapter in their own lives, and then we regather either in-person or online a week later to discuss and share.





In both instances I lined out, note that there are clear synchronous and asynchronous pieces. And, of course, there are dozens of other creative ways to integrate both into KirkWood’s life. For churches who hope to reach and nurture adults in the 21st Century, this kind of hybrid rhythm, moving back and forth between online and offline, is indispensable.

As John Roberto, the facilitator of the Hybrid Faith Formation seminar, put it, our goal as a church should be to enable lifelong and life-wide learning appropriate for all ages. Our measuring stick for success should no longer be that used by churches 40 years ago: it’s not about how many people are in the building at any given time—i.e. Sunday worship—nor how many participated in an event in real time, but instead we need to think about how many we engage throughout the week and in how many different ways. As the book “Always On” says it, we don’t want congregants who are “passive, unreflective, or negative” in either their online or offline lives, and certainly not in their spiritual and church lives.

Warmly,

Pastor Chris

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Special Dates and Upcoming Events

- September 4—Food Pantry Donation
- September 5—Labor Day
- September 11—Church Picnic
Patriot Day
National Grandparents Day
H.O.P.E. Offering
- September 15 - October 15—Hispanic Heritage Month
- September 22—First day of autumn



Session Update

Session



August Meeting Summary:

- ◇ The Property and Facilities Committee will work with Charlie Reece on a "prayer path" beautification plan, hoping to finalize it by our September Session meeting.
- ◇ Session approved the recommendation of an ad hoc committee regarding expanded parking:
 - a) We will demarcate seven overflow spaces along the entry and parking lot nearest Hampton Highway,
 - b) Property and Facilities will explore reorienting the circle drive to expand parking, and
 - c) We anticipate the crosswalk to the library and YMCA being completed at some point (work has already started), which will allow any willing congregants to park across the highway in the library parking lot.
- ◇ Session approved the Mission Committee's further allocation of 2021 Pumpkin Patch money as follows: \$5000 to the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank, and \$5000 to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (namely, for flood victims in Kentucky).
- ◇ The bathroom remodel project, originally scheduled to begin on August 27, was rescheduled to begin on September 2.
- ◇ The Stewardship Committee reported its plans for the late October through mid-November focus on financial stewardship, culminating with Commitment (or Pledge) Sunday on November 20.
- ◇ The Property and Facilities Committee will take the lead in reviewing our site security plan.





Congregational Care Roundup

Congregational Care



Fall Picnic: Our fall picnic will be held after the worship service on Sunday, September 11. Members of the local community are also welcomed, so please invite a friend. Hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks will be provided along with a bounce house/slide for the kids! Join us and bring a dish to share. Sign-up is available in the Narthex and online. The point of contact is Lew Goodman, lewandmary1@gmail.com.

KirkWood Dining Partners: Join us at Smoke in the Hilton area of Newport News on Saturday, September 17, at 6 p.m. for our next get-together. The point of contact is Cindy Williamson, cwillic114@gmail.com.

KirkWood Silver: Our Silver get-togethers will resume September 15 at KirkWood with a sandwich luncheon catered by Italian Delights. Learn more on page 10. The point of contact is Wanda Birch, wandjbirch@verizon.net.

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.

KirkWood T-shirts on sale!

Outreach

The Outreach Committee will be selling T-shirts with our Kirkwood logo again, both short sleeve (\$10) and long sleeve (\$12) in three different colors: purple, navy, and sapphire (bright blue). You can see samples and sign up for a shirt in the fellowship hallway before and after Sunday services now through September 11 (picnic). You can also call June Ritter at 757-867-9022 with questions or to order a shirt. Payment by cash or check will be accepted when you receive your shirt in about three to four weeks.



Remembering our Neighbors' Needs

Mission

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.

Blood Drive Update...Mark Your Calendars!

Mission

Our summer 2022 Red Cross Blood Drive was held at the church on Thursday, August 18. We had 26 presenting donors and were able to collect 25 pints of blood. We collected two double red (two units in one donation—thanks, Don!!) and had only one deferral (donor unable to give for various reasons).

This community is so amazing. Thank you to all who come out to donate or volunteer their time to help make our drives run so smoothly and successfully.



We plan to bring the meal back at our next drive. **Please let Cathy Hudgins know how you can help with that—possibly donate part of the meal or a homemade dessert. Our remaining 2022 date is November 17. Please mark your calendars.**

If you would like to make your appointment for the November drive, the drive is open for scheduling at www.redcrossblood.org, sponsor code KIRKWOODPC. If you have questions, need assistance making your appointment or would like to know how you can help during future drives, please contact Cathy Hudgins, hudgepudge@aol.com.



Growing in our Faith

Christian Education

Starting September 18, *"Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living"* will be taught in the Sunday morning 11 a.m. classes for children, youth, and adult. Join us for the "Make Peace" unit that focuses on Jesus' words in the Beatitudes. As Peacemakers, we work to embody Jesus' teachings in the midst of conflict by cultivating inner peace, seeking to understand where others are coming from, and having the courage to overcome fear.



Additional activities and details are listed below and in weekly bulletins. Come grow with us.

Stimulating • Challenging • Nourishing • Relationship-building

Children

- ◆ Children's church program (GLORY Time) is available for ages 3 years old through second grade during the sermon. Nursery is also available.
- ◆ Contact the church office to sign up for periodic emails of links and activities to coordinate with the worship service and to add to your faith at-home experience.
- ◆ Pick up a goodie bag themed around "CREATE."

Jeannine Scott is our Children's Ministry Coordinator.

Youth

- ◆ Join KirkWood's Youth Group (KYG) second and fourth Sunday evenings for fun, education, development, and service.
- ◆ Join the group text chat for relationship-building discussions and activity planning.
- ◆ Spend a day in Washington D.C. at the Museum of the Bible.

Diane Elder is our Youth Ministry Coordinator.





Adults

- ◆ "Follow Me" classes will meet at 8:30 a.m. in addition to 11 a.m.
- ◆ Surround yourself in relational experiences with a small group. Find the level of study, prayer, and fellowship that works for you whether you prefer to meet in person or Zoom.

Christine Pregler is the Adult CE coordinator.

Volunteers

Exercise your servant's heart with full staff and session support. We will provide lesson plans and materials for whether you want to teach one week, one month, or more. Options are available to serve in an assistant role for preschool through youth classes. Enjoy spending fellowship time at KYG meetings or observing child-like excitement in the nursery.



Thankful for our Blessings

Stewardship

The Many Ways to Give Financially for God's Work

God has blessed us in many ways, including our time, our various talents, and our financial wellbeing. As Christians, we realize those gifts are on loan to us from God, that we should be good stewards of all we have, and that we should thank God for them daily.

KirkWood's mission as "A Christian community growing together, knowing, loving, and serving Christ, to make him known to all" is made possible by the generous financial stewardship of its





congregation. After all, the congregation IS the church. As good financial stewards, our tithes and offerings support KirkWood's ongoing programs, including many mission efforts, our community outreach, Christian education, worship, and building/grounds maintenance.

Your Stewardship Committee wants to remind you there are many ways to financially support God's work through KirkWood:

- 1) You can simply place cash or a check in the offering plate in the Narthex.
- 2) You can mail checks to the church office at 1209 Hampton Highway, Yorktown, VA 23693. (Please write your envelope/giving number on the check memo line.)
- 3) If you use online banking, you can have your bank or credit union send a check to the address above. Most banks do not charge for this service. (If you use this method, please use your envelope/giving number as your KirkWood "account number.") Many KirkWoodians have established recurring weekly or monthly payments, so their contributions reach the church even when they're on vacation or cannot get to church.
- 4) You can go to KirkWood's website (www.kirkwoodpcusa.org) and click the "Donate Now" button to securely donate online using your credit/debit card or by electronic funds transfer (EFT). You can specify where you want your contribution used (e.g., General Fund, Blessing Fund, HOPE offering, Food Closet, Sanctuary Flowers, etc.).
- 5) You can donate using KirkWood's secure mobile app on your smartphone. Simply go to the Apple App Store or Google Play Store, search for *Vanco Mobile App*, download and install *Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement*, then select "KirkWood Presbyterian Church of Yorktown." Create an account, and as with online giving, you may use your credit/debit card or donate by electronic funds transfer (EFT).
- 6) You can give shares of stock to KirkWood. This is especially beneficial if the shares have appreciated in value because you will not pay capital gains tax on the appreciated value, yet KirkWood will benefit from the appreciated value. Contact the church office for instructions on how to transfer stock shares to KirkWood's brokerage account.
- 7) You can contribute directly to KirkWood from your traditional or inherited IRA. A *Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)* allows individuals who are at least age 72 to direct all or part of an IRA distribution directly to KirkWood. You can request a distribution, up to \$100,000, from your IRA made payable to KirkWood without any additional tax consequences. Keep in





mind that when you contribute directly from your IRA to KirkWood, you cannot take a charitable deduction for the QCD amount, but for many people it could provide a better tax benefit.

- 8) You can give through a charitable bequest, a permanent endowment fund, or other estate plan that enables you to support KirkWood's mission by sharing with the church the financial gifts God has provided you. A bequest is the act of giving assets such as cash, stocks, or bonds to an organization, through the provisions of a will or estate plan. In the future, your Stewardship Committee will provide more information on how to make a bequest to KirkWood.

We hope you will consider the many ways outlined here to support KirkWood financially and decide the best fit for your circumstances. Your tithes and offerings are a significant way to show your enduring faith and appreciation to God for all He's given you.

KirkWood Silver

Congregational Care

September 15 is the date to mark on your calendars if you would like to join KirkWood Seniors for food, fellowship, and fascinating info on how Hampton Roads Sanitation District operates to manage wastewater that goes into the Chesapeake Bay! Lunch will begin at 11:30 a.m., and will be a selection of sub sandwiches from Italian Delights. Sandwich choices will include Italian, turkey with cheese, and roast beef with cheese. Chips, cookies, and beverages will also be provided. The cost will be determined by participation but should be less than \$10 per person.



The HRSD program will follow lunch and will be led by A. G. Williamson, IV (who grew up in KirkWood!) or by colleagues of his. Please sign up in the Narthex and give your sandwich preferences now through September 11. Contact Jim or Wanda Birch at 757-868-8651 or wandjbirch@verizon.net. Bring someone new to KirkWood or to KirkWood Silver!

Future KWS events:

- ◆ October 20 – Lunch in Yorktown at Water Street Grill at 11 a.m., outside, weather permitting, followed by a visit to The American Revolution Museum just up the hill from the restaurant. (We'll drive!)
- ◆ November 17 – Lunch at Schlesinger's at 11:30 a.m.

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