

KirkWood Kronicle

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

March 2023



KirkWood Family,

The March 2023 Kronicle will be ready for public consumption about two weeks into Lent this year. That brought to mind this down to earth devotional that I ran across a few years back, from the daily devotional of the United Church of Christ. May you find some peace in its wisdom, and certainly lots of grace for our many unmet best intentions. Remember – Lent, like the rest of

our lives, is more about God's work in us despite us than it's about His work in us because of us.

"Chocolate and Other Habits"

by Rachel Hackenberg | published on Mar 11, 2020

Remember the wonderful works God has done: the miracles, the judgments uttered, the word commanded, the covenant kept. – Psalm 105:5, 8

Two weeks into Lent, how are you doing? How are those Lenten practices that you planned to observe faithfully? The chocolate and sugars you swore off, the alcohol you decided to abstain from, the meditative silence you intended to observe for twenty minutes each morning, the handwritten thank-you notes you were going to write each day to foster a spirit of gratitude. Still going strong?



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.



Lenten Thoughts (cont.)

No shame if they're not.

But also, no kudos if they are.

Of course, it's fabulous if your Lenten spiritual discipline has revealed deep meaning and has taken hold in life-giving habitual ways. Seriously, I don't "give up" for Lent for the same reason that I don't make resolutions for the New Year—it doesn't ignite my soul with anything but guilt—so I'm delighted if your Lenten discipline is feeding your spirit.

But no kudos and gold stars for you.

Because it's not about your work in Lent.

It's about God's work in Lent. God's miracles. God's judgments. God's promises. God's breath and flesh on earth. God's mystery and majesty in the heavens.

No matter if you're experiencing stunning spiritual growth or if the no-chocolate thing has already flopped phenomenally, you can still focus your Lenten journey on the work that matters: God's grace."

Warmly,
Pastor Chris





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Special Dates and Upcoming Events

March 5 – Food Pantry Collection

March 11 – KirkWood Walking Group
(Sandy Bottom Park)

March 12 – HOPE (Helping Other People
Eat) Offering Collection

March 18 – Spring Fling Potluck

March 25 – Spring Clean Up

*Daylight Saving Time begins on March 12.
Turn clocks forward an hour before bed.*





Session Update

Session



Session has made an addition to its meeting routine - every quarter they'll gather an hour early to eat dinner together, the goal being to strengthen our great team even more by sharing a meal.



Two items of note coming in March: 3/18 - Spring Fling Potluck, and 3/25 - Spring Clean Up at Church



The Congregational Care Committee was approved to start work on an April 2023 craft fair; as the details are worked out, they'll be publicized. Our Outreach Committee will work to ensure that this event helps us connect with the surrounding community.



Session approved an intergenerational spiritual formation event for Easter Sunday 2023 (between the sunrise and 9:30 worship services); the Christian Ed. Committee will take the lead in planning it.



The Property and Facilities Committee in conjunction with the Stewardship Committee has begun work on a five-year facilities improvement and upkeep plan, including how to fund the various projects.



A new monthly Board Gaming group will be coming soon to KW. Watch for details. This will also serve an outreach purpose, being a non-threatening place to invite and engage those who don't attend KW.



Pastor Chris asked for input about sermon series/topics for the remainder of 2023.



Congregational Care Round-up

Congregational Care

SAVE THE DATE: Your CC Committee will be hosting a “Spring Fling” International potluck dinner on Saturday, March 18th, at 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Help us welcome warmer weather by bringing your favorite international dish from South of the Border, Asia, the Mediterranean, northern Europe, and other areas from the four corners of the globe. We’ll need main dishes, sides, and desserts. Sign-up is available in the Narthex and on-line at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4aafa62fa13-spring>.

KirkWood Dining Partners: The Dining Partners will be enjoying Mexican food on March 11th at 6 PM at Plaza Azteca on Hwy 17 in York County. Stay tuned for details. POC is Cindy Williamson.

KirkWood Silver: On March 16th, the Silver folks are having a sandwich luncheon at KirkWood at 11:30. Pastor Chris will be the guest speaker and will talk about the history of the stoles he wears during the worship service. POC is Wanda Birch.

Other Upcoming Events: CC is planning some additional near-term events for enjoyment and fellowship including breakfast after Easter Sunrise Service (April 9th), Craft Fair in conjunction with Outreach Committee (April 29th), and Peninsula Pilots baseball game (June). If there is an event or activity you’d like us to take on, please let us know!

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.

KirkWood Swag: KirkWood logo T-shirts and Kirkwood's own cookbook will now be available for sale in the fellowship hall following Sunday worship services. Come and see our selection of shirts in purple and navy in all sizes. Both shirts and cookbooks would make great gifts or Easter basket "stuffers". See Arba or Cindy Williamson or June Ritter for questions. Cash or checks accepted, made out to Kirkwood Presbyterian Church with "T-Shirt" or "Cookbook" on the memo line.

Unless otherwise noted, the point of contact for these items/events is Lew Goodman.



KirkWood Silver & Board Game Group

Congregational Care

All KirkWood seniors are invited to a KirkWood Silver "It's Almost Spring" luncheon and pastor presentation on Thursday, March 16th at 11:30, in the Fellowship Hall. The lunch fare will be assorted sub sandwich platters purchased from Italian Delights. There will also be chips and cookies. The cost will be less than \$10 and may be paid at the luncheon.

Following our meal, we will have a special treat! Our pastor, Chris Shearer, will show us up close the many colorful and interesting stoles he wears in worship each Sunday. They are from many cultures, and many have stories about the stoles themselves or about how Chris came to have them! He will share his "stole stories" with us! Chris has also agreed to answer questions about the stoles or about ANYTHING else on your mind! You don't want to miss this happening!

If you plan to attend, please sign up in the Narthex by March 12th. Be sure to check your sandwich choices. For further information, contact Jim or Wanda Birch at 757-868-8651, or wandjbirch@verizon.net.

UPCOMING KirkWood Silver EVENTS

- April 20 - KWS plans to return to Play Around mini golf in Grafton. Details TBA.
- May 18 - Lunch at York River Oyster Company and Grill

Board Game Gathering!

Looking for some time to have a fun time playing some games? On March 18th from 1:00 to 4:00 in the fellowship hall, KirkWood will be having a board game gathering. Bring some of your favorite games (or learn a new game someone else brings) and hang out for a couple of hours having fun. Party games, strategy games, competitive games, collaborative games - they are all welcome. Encourage your friends to come out too, as this is open to the community as well. Hopefully this will be successful enough to be a monthly event. Any questions, reach out to Jim Mershon at jim_mershon@hotmail.com.



KirkWood Gets Krafty!!!

Calling all crafters! KirkWood is hosting a Craft Fair on April 29th from 10am – 3pm on the KirkWood lawn.

This will be a wonderful church family event and opportunity to meet and greet our neighbors in the community as well as show God's love to all. There will be food trucks and craft activities for kids!

The Fair will be limited to homemade crafts & prepackaged food items and will be open to all "crafters" in the area. KirkWood crafters have priority to sign up for a booth at the Fair but must sign up by March 15th to guarantee a spot. There is no fee to have a booth at the Fair although there is a \$50 deposit that will be refunded if you show up and stay for the entire fair.

An application can be found on the KirkWood website <https://kirkwoodpcusa.org>. Please help spread the word to any crafters you know. Contact Lew Goodman or Arba Williamson with questions.





KirkWood Gentle Yoga Update

The Wednesday 9:00 am yoga class at KirkWood with instructor Judy Layne-Wood that started in December continues with a good-sized group of 9 to 14 men and women (and one granddaughter on a non-school day). We still have space for a few more folks to join the group.

Judy may be able to start an evening class, depending on her obligations elsewhere. For now, there are free classes at both the Tabb and Poquoson libraries. Liz Hunt and Kris Bistrow are the instructors and are endorsed by Judy. Hours are:

Tabb Library: 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 pm. (March dates 2nd, 16th and 29th)

Poquoson Library: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00 pm. (March dates 1st, 15th and 29th).

If you would like to be involved in a KirkWood, evening class on Thursdays or Fridays when the Fellowship Hall is available, please contact Murray Ritter.





Many Ways to Support KirkWood

Stewardship

KirkWood Presbyterian Church is blessed in so many ways. We are a doing church – trying to reach those less fortunate in our community through PORT, building wheelchair ramps, assisting York Poquoson Social Services, knitting blankets for Project Linus, and many, many other ministries. Our congregation is very generous and supports KirkWood’s ministries with their time, talents, and treasure (\$\$). Please consider how you are best suited to support the many ministries at KirkWood and how you might increase your giving of time, talent, and treasure.

Regarding time and talent, consider signing up for projects listed in the weekly bulletin and e-mails, such as building a wheelchair ramp, helping with clean up days, or attending/ joining a committee. Volunteer to visit shut-ins, create bud vases for the visitation team to take to folks during the week, assist with setting up and taking down the coffee fellowship each Sunday. The opportunities go on and on, and it’s a great way to get to know your KirkWood family!

Turning now to our financial treasure (you knew we would get there!) -- If you haven’t submitted a pledge card for 2023, Kathy Fore, Financial Secretary, will be happy to hear from you via e-mail, USPS, or a note in her mailbox at the church.

You may also want to consider one of the following ways to support KirkWood:

Gifts of Appreciated Stock – if you own stock that has increased in value, consider donating it directly to KirkWood. You will not only get to claim the current value of the stock as an itemized deduction, but you will also avoid the tax on the long-term capital gains. The church office can provide instructions on how to transfer the shares to KirkWood’s brokerage account.





Qualified charitable distributions – If you are at least 70 ½ years old you can make a qualified charitable distribution (QCD for short) from a traditional or inherited IRA directly to KirkWood. QCDs generally aren't included in your taxable income and count toward your required minimum distribution. You cannot take a charitable deduction for the QCD, but for many it may provide a better tax benefit.

The KirkWood website (www.kirkwoodpcusa.org) has a button to securely donate online using your credit or debit card or from your checking or savings account. You can designate your gift for the General Fund, Blessing Fund, Flowers, HOPE offering, etc. You can also give by downloading the “Vanco Mobile” app on your smartphone.

Of course, you can put a check in the new Offering Box in the narthex or mail a check to the church office at 1209 Hampton Highway, Yorktown, VA 23693.

Theologian Henri Nouwen once said, “Asking people for money is giving them the opportunity to put their resources at the disposal of the kingdom.” Many people would add that it is also an opportunity for people to grow in their faith.

God has given each of us many varied spiritual and material gifts. Note that these are gifts, and do not belong to us. God does not transfer ownership but rather entrusts these gifts to our care to discern what God wants us to do with them.





Learning About God This Month

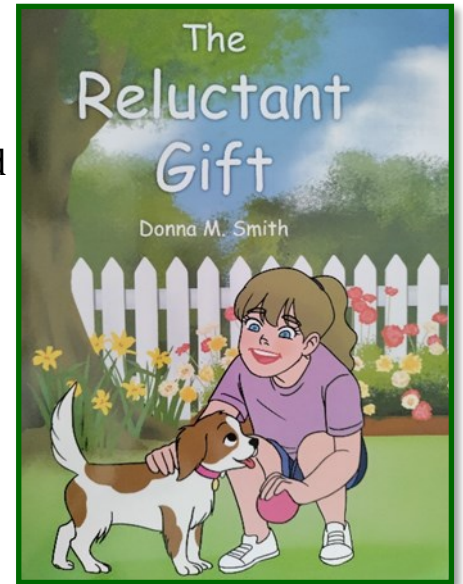
Christian Education

New to the Library

The Reluctant Gift by KirkWood member Donna Smith

Ms. Smith surprised us with a signed advanced copy of her second book to put in the library. Preview the book while you wait to purchase your own copy after its official release date.

Animal lovers everywhere will connect with little Katie's fondest wish for a pet dog. Follow Katie's journey as she gets her dream and how it ends up teaching her about sacrifice and the strength behind God's gift of His son.



The Great Easter Eggs-ploration April 9th



"Seek and you will find."
- Matthew 7:7, NIV

Explore what you believe this Easter and join the Christian Education committee before or after the Easter Sunday service for much more than just an egg hunt. Stations will be set up in the fellowship hall with activities for all ages to celebrate the Good News of Jesus' resurrection.

There will also be eggs hidden outside and no age limit on who can find a dozen.



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: Successful Start to 2023

Mission

Our first 2023 Red Cross Blood Drive was held at the church on Thursday, February 16th. We had 35 presenting donors and were able to collect 37 pints of blood. We collected 4 double red (2 units in one donation) and only had 2 deferrals (unable to give for various reasons) and one donor unable to complete the donation. This community is so amazing.

Thank you to all those that come out to donate or volunteer their time to help make our drives run so smoothly and successfully. The wonderful cooks and bakers of Kirkwood fed our donors delicious food. Thank you to Donna Craig for coordinating the meals during the drives.

We will be looking for volunteers to donate part of the meal, monetary donations to offset the costs of supplies, or a homemade dessert for upcoming drives.

The remaining 2023 drive dates are: (all Thursdays and all from 2:00-7:00 in the fellowship hall) May 18, August 17 and November 16. Please mark your calendars. If you would like to make your appointment for the May drive, it is open for scheduling. 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.

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