

KirkWood Kronicle

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

March 2025



KirkWood family,

As I write this afternoon, we're 10 days away from the start of Lent 2025. This month, as a way to help all of us prepare to meet Christ during that sacred season and perhaps come into it from a different angle, I'd like to share the bulk of an excellent article written by Rev. Dr. Donald McKim (a PCUSA minister, professor, and editor) entitled "Listening in Lent." The tag line for the article is a good summary of

the distinct point of view it offers: "Instead of giving something up this Lent, what if we chose to enter life more fully by listening — to the world and to ourselves?"

Dr. McKim writes...

"As we enter Lent, with its tradition of finding something to 'give up' to focus on the solemn season and the coming death and resurrection of Christ, it's tempting to try to withdraw from the world. And it's easy.

But perhaps some intentionality about entering Lent and following through with differing perspectives can be helpful. Suppose instead of eliminating a practice during Lent, we incorporated one, and one that might seem counterintuitive?

Suppose we listened?



KirkWood Presbyterian Church

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Worship: Sundays, 9:30 AM, in person and broadcast live via KirkWood's home page and our YouTube channel. On-demand replays are available on YouTube and the church website.

Sunday School: 8:30 AM (adults) and 11:00 AM for all ages



Listen to the World

We can begin where we are, by listening to the world around us. We do this all the time, hearing the barrage of sounds and language that are our constant companions. But what if we were more intentional about listening to the world around us?

NATURE - We can listen to nature. Mostly, we may take 'nature' for granted. God's created order surrounds us. It is 'there' — day by day; night by night. But in what ways do we 'listen' to nature — or let it speak to us of the glory of God our creator?

John Calvin spoke of 'this magnificent theater of heaven and earth, crammed with innumerable miracles' (Institutes). The 'works of God' in 'this most beautiful theater' should speak to us. People of faith should 'be mindful that wherever we cast our eyes, all things they meet are works of God, and at the same time to ponder with pious meditation to what end God created them.' Is this how we view and perceive 'nature' around us?

Nature is 'alive' in the eyes of faith. Lent is a time to listen to nature as our surroundings take on the glorious display of God's creative acts in nature's 'most beautiful theater'!

VOICES OF OTHERS - As we listen to the world around us, we will also hear the voices of others. Those voices meet us in many ways and are saying many things to us.

During Lent, we can be intentional about listening to the voices of those who are in need. Traditionally, one of the historic disciplines the church wanted people to practice during Lent was to give alms – gifts, offerings, donations, assistance, monies – to the poor, to those in need. In our Lenten ears this year, let us seek to hear the voices of those in need. Jesus expressed what we are to do when we hear those voices in Matthew 25: provide food for the hungry, drink for the thirsty, welcome for the stranger, clothing for the naked, care for the sick, visits for those in prison (25:31-46).

OUR 'SELF' - listening to the world, we can turn inward during Lent and we can ask: what is our 'self' saying?





Frederick Buechner, the beloved writer and preacher, spoke of 'listening to your life' (Listening to Your Life: Daily Meditations with Frederick Buechner). God can speak through all things. And God speaks, 'I believe,' said Buechner, in words that are 'incarnate in the flesh and blood of ourselves and of our own footsore and sacred journeys' (The Sacred Journey). For 'God speaks into or out of the thick of our days' (The Sacred Journey).

God speaks in our lives. It is for us to listen to our lives. During Lent, we can listen to our 'self' and try to discern what God is saying. Calvin began his Institutes by saying: 'Nearly all the wisdom we possess, that is to say, true and sound wisdom, consists of two parts: the knowledge of God and of ourselves.' More succinctly, Calvin wrote: 'In knowing God, each of us also knows himself.' We want to know – and listen – to what God is saying to us so we come to know ourselves. If it is by knowing God that we truly know ourselves, then as people of faith in Lent, we need to listen to our lives, to our 'self', so we can know what God is saying to us in and through who we are as Christian people.

There are various ways we can listen to ourselves during Lent. Are there sins in our lives for which we need to repent and seek forgiveness? Are there relationships with others that need repair and reconciliation? Are there practices in our lives that need adjusting or abandoning? The Spirit helps us listen to our 'self' as we consider what needs to be done within us and work through change, which can be difficult.

Conclusion

Enter Lent ready to listen this year! The world has much to say to us. Let's listen. Listen to your life, day by day. Listen to God and 'make diligent use of the means of grace.' This Lent, let God's Spirit move you from where you are to where God wants you to be!"



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March 2nd – Food Pantry Collection

March 6th – Feeding the Hungry at First
Presbyterian Hampton at 10am

March 8th – Parents Night Out/Kids Night In
4:00-7:00PM

March 9th – UNITE Meeting at 11:00AM
H.O.P.E. (Helping Other People Eat)
Offering

March 15th – Dining Partners at 6pm (Kephi)

March 16th – Green Sunday

March 24th – PORT beginning at 3:00PM (New
Beech Grove Baptist)

March 29th – Spring Clean-Up 8:00-11:00AM



Congregational Care Update

Congregational Care

Upcoming Events: Saint Patrick's Day will be here soon, so to honor the "Apostle of Ireland", Congregational Care (CC) will be hosting a "Green Sunday" celebration on March 16th in the fellowship hall after the worship service. We'll provide the goodies--all you have to do is show up. Be sure to wear a bit o' green and maybe you'll be blessed with the luck o' the Irish! (Unless you are a devoted Ulster Scot, in which case orange may be befitting, in honor of William of Orange.) In April, Arba and Cindy Williamson, once again, will be preparing a pancake and bacon breakfast for those hearty souls attending the Easter Sunrise Service on Sunday the 20th. Others are welcome of course, but the dinner bell sounds about 7:30AM, so plan to be there early!

KirkWood Dining Partners: Upcoming events are shown below. You can sign up in the narthex or contact Cindy Williamson at cwillic114@gmail.com to be added to the list. Please share this with others who may be interested in joining us for food, fellowship and fun.

March 15, 2025, Kephi Kitchen, Williamsburg, 6:00PM

April 12, 2025, Tuscany, NN 6:00PM

May 10, 2025, TBD, 6:00PM

Meals Support: If due to illness, hospitalization, or other circumstances you require assistance in providing meals for yourself or family, CC is here to help. We can arrange for volunteers to provide up to three meals for your home during these times. Under exceptional conditions, we will work with you or your family to provide additional support. Wendy Linehan (757) 509-8233.

Unless otherwise noted, the point of contact for these items/events is Lew Goodman (757) 375-7520.



KirkWood Silver Outings

Congregational Care

KirkWood Seniors are invited to join us on March 20th when we will be awed by our guest presenter Charlie Reece. Charlie loves scuba diving and will be with us to share STORIES and VIDEO of his experience diving and filming marine life in the Sulu Sea at the Philippine National Marine Park! Come and swim with Charlie! But before we "dive," we will need nourishment! At 11:30AM a variety of pizzas will be served for LUNCH. We will also have beverages and cookies. We need four cookie volunteers. Sign up for "Under the Sea" in the Narthex March 1st through 16th. Contact Wanda Birch at 757-868-8651, or wandibirch@verizon.net if you need more info.



KirkWood Silver will be off to the theater on Saturday, April 12th, to see The Williamsburg Players present the comedy, "Harvey."

Harvey is an imaginary six-foot-five rabbit and best friend to Elwood P. Dodd. This is awkward and embarrassing for Elwood's family. When they decide to have Elwood committed, Elwood and Harvey disappear! Come and laugh as we see Harvey making a difference all around him! The play begins at 2:00PM. Try to arrive by 1:45PM. The van will be going and will leave KirkWood at 1:00PM. Tickets are available from Gloria Griffin for \$16. See Gloria right away because we only have a block of twenty tickets AND sign-ups are currently in the Narthex. Gloria Griffin, 757-719-0995.



February Blood Drive Update

Mission

Unfortunately, our February Red Cross Blood Drive was canceled due to the snow storm. This is always such a tough call, but the decision was made in the interest of the donors' safety. You have until March 20th, to find another drive to donate and still be eligible to donate at our May 15th drive. I encourage anyone who was scheduled to donate in February to find another drive. There is always an urgent need for all blood types.

The schedule May drive is open and you can go online to schedule your appointments or contact Cathy Hudgins (hudgepudge@aol.com) to make your appointment for you. You can go to www.redcrossblood.org and in the upper right corner you can enter the sponsor code: KirkwoodPC to take you to the Kirkwood page.

If you would like to inquire about helping at the drives or with donating food or funds to defray the cost of the food during the drives, please contact Cathy at hudgepudge@aol.com.

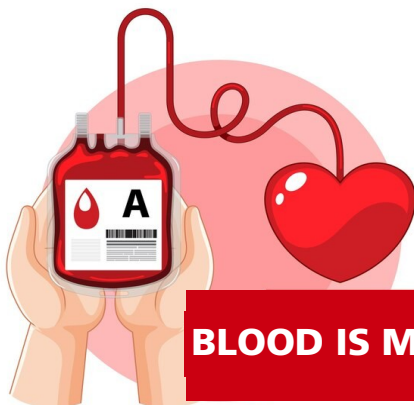
Mark Your Calendars:

Remaining 2025 Blood Drive Dates

May 15th
August 21st
November 20th

Location: Fellowship Hall

Time:
1:00-6:00PM



BLOOD IS MEANT FOR CIRCULATION. PASS IT ON.



New Technology in the Sanctuary

Communication & Technology

KirkWood has added new technology to the sanctuary to help us to be more accessible. We have installed a listening assistance system so those who have difficulty hearing can have their own amplified sound, particularly focused on the spoken word and vocals.

There are 2 ways to utilize this system:

You can use your own smartphone. You will need to download the ListenWiFi App. Then, while at the church, make sure you connect to the “KirkWood” wifi network. Open the app; it will scan for around 10 seconds, and it should allow you to play the audio from two different “channels”. This can be done through either your own headphones, earbuds, or hearing aids if they are connected to your phone.



You can use one of our receivers, with your own wired headphones or earbuds, our headphones, or a neck loop (if your hearing aids have a T-Coil).

Just stop by the AV desk between 9:10AM and 9:25AM or after the service on a Sunday morning - we have instructions and will help you get set-up.





Sprucing Up for Spring

Property & Facilities

Volunteers are needed to help with the Spring clean-up on Saturday, March 29th 8:00AM-11:00AM. We will be doing general yard maintenance as well as spreading mulch in our beds and trails. Please bring wheel barrows and rakes if you have them. For details, contact Jamie Reno h2orenos@gmail.com.

A New Opportunity for Growth

Lunch and Learn Seminars at Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center

KirkWood is a sponsor of The Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center (PPCC) and employs their services when needed by our congregation. We wanted to alert KirkWood to a new opportunity being offered by the PPCC.

The Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center is now sponsoring Lunch and Learn Seminars - free mental health seminars - every 4th Tuesday of the month, noon to 1:00 PM at PPCC's main office, 707 Gum Rock Court, Newport News. We want to ensure you are aware you have access to these monthly Lunch & Learn seminars and are ***encouraged to use them as a resource***. Take a look at the upcoming topics and dates:

- February 25th- God Gave Me Sexuality and it is Good
- March 25th- The Medicine of Silliness
- April 22nd- The Power of Pausing
- May 27th- Mental Health for Expecting and New Families
- June 24th- Forgiveness

Lunch & Learn details can be found on our PPCC [website](#). All are welcome, but registration is required for planning purposes. Hope you will attend a Lunch & Learn seminar soon!



Something for Everyone in the Family

Christian Education



KirkWood Kids:  Cooking Theme

Kid Night In:	Parent Night Out:
Drop off your child for a movie, games, craft, and dinner. Each activity will be centered around the cooking theme	Enjoy time on your own or join other parents for a dinner at a local restaurant

 **SAT. MARCH 8**
4-7 P.M.

 **KIRKWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

RSVP: Jeannine Scott
FREE

- > Includes All Materials + Apron
- > Dinner provided for kids & volunteers

Call For More Info
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