

KirkWood Kronicle

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

May 2024



In this Eastertide season, while the pulpit and communion table colors remain white, I wanted to use this space to share a longer citation from the late Eugene Peterson's book, "Practice Resurrection – A Conversation about Growing Up in Christ." (Who's Eugene Peterson, some might wonder? A longtime PCUSA minister and well-known writer on the Christian life and pastoral ministry, undoubtedly most famous for his paraphrase of the Bible "The

Message," still one of my own personal favorites.)

Why this citation? Because, as you'll read, inherent in Jesus' resurrection is the call for each of us to grow up in Christ...and to not expect that to occur quickly:

All of us are born. No exceptions. Birth brought us alive, kicking and crying, into a world that is vast, complex, damaged, demanding . . . and beautiful. In increments, day-by day, we begin to get the hang of it. One day on waking up we stand upright and amaze everyone with our pedestrian acrobatics. It isn't long before we're old hands at language, using nouns and verbs with the best of them. We are growing up. Jesus used the birth event as a metaphor for another kind of birth: becoming alive to God. Alive to God-alive. Life vast, complex, damaged, demanding . . . and beautiful. Alive to God's holiness, God's will, God's kingdom, power, and glory. There is more to life after birth than mother's milk, sleeping and waking, walking and talking. There is God.



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



Jesus introduced the birth metaphor in a conversation with rabbi Nicodemus one night in Jerusalem, telling him, “You must be born from above” (John 3:7). The metaphor can also be translated “born anew” (RSV) and “born again” (KJV). Nicodemus didn’t understand the metaphor, didn’t get it. Literalists, maybe especially religious literalists, have a difficult time with metaphors. A metaphor is a word that makes an organic connection from what you can see to what you can’t see. In any conversation involving God, whom we can’t see, metaphors are invaluable for keeping language vivid and immediate. Without metaphors we are left with colorless abstractions and vague generalities.

...We can be fairly certain that Nicodemus did eventually get it, for the next time he is mentioned, playing a major role along with Joseph of Arimathea in the burial of the crucified body of Jesus (John 19:38-40), it looks very much as if he had decided to participate in the way of Jesus. Despite, or more likely because of, the metaphor, Nicodemus was born from above. And not only born, but growing. His presence at the burial is evidence that ever since that conversation with Jesus he had been growing, growing in understanding and participation, on his way to maturity in the world of God alive.

So, birth. Then growth. The most significant growing up that any person does is to grow as a Christian. All other growing up is a preparation for or ancillary to this growing up. Biological and social, mental and emotional growing is all ultimately absorbed into growing up in Christ. Or not. The human task is to become mature, not only in our bodies and emotions and minds within ourselves, but also in our relationship with God and other persons.

Growing up involves the work of the Holy Spirit forming our born-again spirits into the likeness of Christ....St. Paul describes the agenda he sets out for Christians in the Ephesian letter: that we “come . . . to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ . . . grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ” (Eph. 4:13, 15). Or, as I have translated it: “God wants us to grow



up, to know the whole truth and tell it in love — like Christ in everything . . . so that we will grow up healthy in God, robust in love” (The Message). There are no shortcuts in growing up. The path to maturity is long and arduous. Hurry is no virtue. There is no secret formula squirreled away that will make it easier or quicker...There are no steroids available for growing up in Christ more quickly. Impatient shortcuts land us in the dead ends of immaturity.

Warmly,
Pastor Chris

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MAY SPEICAL DATES

- 4th – Walking Group at 10 AM (Windsor Castle Trail in Smithfield)
- 5th - Food Pantry Collection
- 9th – Feeding the Homeless at 10 AM (First Presbyterian Hampton)
- 12th – Mother’s Day; H.O.P.E. Offering
- 16th – KirkWood Silver Luncheon at 11:30 AM (Park Lane Tavern)
- 18th – Drive By Food Collection at 9 AM
 - International Foods Potluck at 6 PM
- 27th – Memorial Day (Church Office Closed)
- 30th– Feeding the Homeless at 10 AM (First Presbyterian Hampton)



Congregational Care Update

Congregational Care

International Foods Night Potluck: Bonjour! Hola! Guten Tag! Spring is in full bloom so let's celebrate the bounty of the wonderful culinary dishes this wide world of ours has to offer. Bring your favorite to our second International Foods Night Potluck Supper on Saturday, May 18th at 6 PM in the KirkWood Fellowship Hall. In addition to great food, there will be entertainment focused on countries, events, and people from around the globe. Sign-up in the Narthex or On-Line at [THIS LINK](#). Bon Appetit!

KirkWood Silver: KirkWood Silver will rally on Thursday, May 16th, for good food and fellowship at Park Lane Tavern, 4200 Kilgore Ave. It is in Peninsula Town Center, where there are unique shopping opportunities. The van will be going for those who prefer not to drive, park, and walk! Sign up in the Narthex April 28th through May 12th. Invite someone new to KW to join us! Contacts: Gloria Griffin (757-719-0995/ gloriagriffin@cox.net) or Wanda Birch (757-868-8651/ wandjbirch@verizon.net).

KirkWood Dining Partners: Come on out on Saturday, May 11 to County Grill in Yorktown at 6 pm for our last Dining Partners of the 'season'. County Grill is located at 1215 George Washington Hwy (Route 17). Sign up in the Narthex. Contact: Cindy Williamson (757-344-5577).

KirkWood Walking Group: The Kirkwood Walking Group will be headed to a new place on May 4th at 10:00 AM....Smithfield. We will walk on the beautiful Windsor Castle Park Trail starting across the street from the Smithfield Station hotel. (Park on the right side of the parking lot only). For those wanting to caravan over, the KirkWood van will leave the Kirkwood parking lot at 9:00 AM. If you have any questions, contact Bruce or Jan Knight (757-868-6796).

Other Upcoming Events: On Friday, June 21st at 7 PM, we will be visiting War Memorial Stadium in Hampton to see the Peninsula Pilots baseball team take on the Tri-City Chili Peppers.



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 to your home during these times. Under exceptional conditions, we will work with you or your family to provide additional support. POC is Wendy Linehan (757-509-8233).

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



The office needs your help. If you, or your child, is a senior in high school or college and will be graduating this spring (or graduated last fall), please contact the office by May 19th. Please contact Albertina by email at office@kirkwoodpcusa.org or 757-766-0343 with the name of the student, the school from which they will be graduating, future plans (if known) and a senior/graduation picture. We will also recognize our high school graduates during worship on June 2nd. Thank you so much.



Mission Appreciation

Missions

Happy May from your Mission Committee! We would like to extend our thanks to everyone who volunteers their time and talents in support of our committee! Between volunteers making and serving lunches, moving appliances, fixing doors and shutters, and installing ceiling lights at Thrive, the number of hours everyone gives is astounding!

Mark your calendars for Saturday May 18th from 9:00-11:00 AM for our quarterly food donation drop off day in front of the church in the circle driveway. These items support your KirkWood Kupboard, St. Luke's Food Ministry, and the Virginia Food Bank.

We would like to extend our appreciation to Tom Heldreth who has tirelessly maintained our KirkWood Food Kupboard by repairing the latches and giving it a new coat of paint and stain! As the 2024 school year winds down, so do many of the school lunch and feeding programs. As you consider donations to the Kupboard, items that can be easily transported for lunches tend to go quickly in the summer months. For example, packages of peanut butter crackers and the like were very popular last summer. We continue to find that donations of canned and boxed meals, cereals, peanut butter and jelly, canned meats such as tuna and chicken, as well as all ranges of cereals are most popular. If you prefer to donate monetarily, your Kupboard volunteers are excellent shoppers and are good at stretching the dollar!



You may notice a new addition inside the Kupboard. We have placed a flier holder that offers information about the many community resources available to those who visit our Kupboard.

We would love to have you join our committee and hope to see you soon on the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 PM in Classroom 4!



Last Blood Drive Before Summer

Mission

Our next Red Cross Blood Drive will be THURSDAY, MAY 16th from 1:00-6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. This drive will be held in memory of Steve Hudgins, and in honor of all those that have been in need of blood products during an illness at a point in their lives. We will be highlighting a few of our Kirkwood family members. This will be a high volume drive, so I encourage you to make your appointments early. We are hoping to get some additional workers and some additional appointments.

TIME CHANGE: All drives from the May drive on will be scheduled from 1:00 to 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

Our 2024 dates are: August 15th and November 21st. The schedules for the May and August drives are 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.

If you or someone you know has been the recipient of blood products, at some time in the past, we would like to highlight these individuals as well. We would like to display a picture and possibly a short statement of whom and when they benefited from someone's blood donation. You can give them to Cathy Hudgins prior to the May 16th drive.

The Red Cross provides about 40% of our nation's blood and blood components, all from generous volunteer donors. But supply can't always meet demand because only about 3% of age-eligible people donate blood yearly. Each new donor helps us meet patient needs.



Planning to Give

Stewardship

Have you thought about planning for the future of our church – as well as the future of your family? It is interesting to note that only 60% of our population has an up-to-date written plan of how their assets will be distributed when they are gone. Of those who do have a plan, only about 10% remember their church or other charity in that plan.

One of the cornerstones of a sound Christian plan is a Will or Living Trust, prepared by a lawyer, that does more than distribute assets where YOU wish them to go. It can provide for a Power of Attorney, a Healthcare Proxy, a Guardian for dependents, a Living Will directive, and possibly some tax reduction plans. Without a will, your wishes are not recognized, the state determines how your assets are distributed and no charity will be a beneficiary. So, consider your legacy – for your children and for your church. God has blessed all of us in so many ways, and Kirkwood has helped guide those blessings.

More information about how you can provide for Kirkwood and your family will appear in future Kronicle articles and other publications.





Flamingo Flocking

Administration

Flamingos flocking in someone's yard usually shows they are pranked. This fundraising idea involves deploying a flock of pink plastic flamingoes in a friend's yard. Besides just trying to get a laugh out of the homeowners, these statues mean that someone is helping to raise money for KirkWood's capital campaign.

Yes, you could be a part of our fundraiser.

To flock a loved one costs \$40 for two (2) nights. When you purchase the flocking, you can request the days or chose first available. We will not guarantee that the homeowner will be on site for the flocking. On those days a flock of pink flamingos appear in the yard by "The Flamingo Marauders", and those who put them there sit back and enjoy at their prank. Don't worry, two (2) days after your chosen home has been flocked, our "Flamingo Marauders" will cause the flock to disappear from the yard. Also, early pickup of the flock can be purchased for \$30.

Sharing photos of your, or your loved ones, flocked yard are strongly encouraged!

If you do not want to be flocked, and strongly believe you will be (Pastor Chris), you may purchase Flamingo Insurance. We have several tiers for you to participate in:

Protection for a 1-time flocking costs \$30

Protection from flocking for 1 week costs \$45

Protection from flocking for 1 month costs \$60

Protection from flocking permanently costs \$100

All proceeds from flocking will go to the Foundations of the Future capital campaign fund. That is 100%.

Flocking sales are happening each Sunday in the fellowship hall. Please contact April Mer-shon (757-325-7189) with your questions.



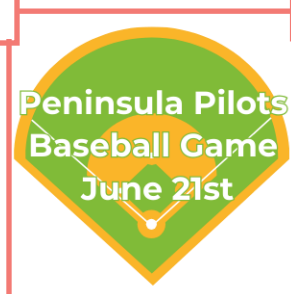
Foundation for the Future FAQs

Outreach

So far, 2024 has been an exciting time for KirkWood! We have experienced an increase in attendance at worship, wonderful opportunities for mission and stewardship, thought provoking and challenging sermons and worship, and chances to grow spiritually on Sunday morning and in weekly small groups. I have a strong sense that God is working mightily in our Christian family.

With that sense comes wonderful challenges for the KirkWood community. In the parable of the talents, Jesus teaches us that those who have been given gifts and opportunities from God have the responsibility to be faithful stewards. Those that increased their talents were rewarded.

We have that challenge to continue to strengthen the KirkWood family both in our spirits and making Christ known to all. In January, I challenged each of us to invite someone to KirkWood. There are many opportunities below. Please prayerfully consider this challenge.





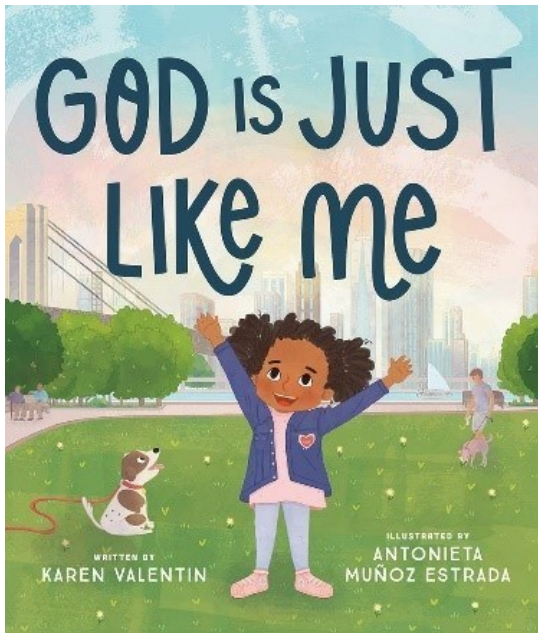
Find Something New in the Library

Christian Education

Stop by room 5 and find something good to read! These new additions are waiting for you!

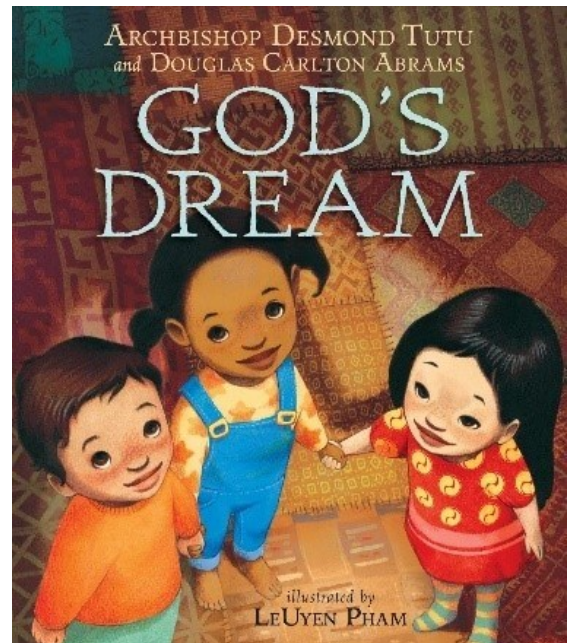
God Is Just Like Me by Karen Valentin

A Puerto Rican girl in New York City makes a discovery that she and God and her. She sees Him in thunderstorms, fishing, sunrises, and dancing.



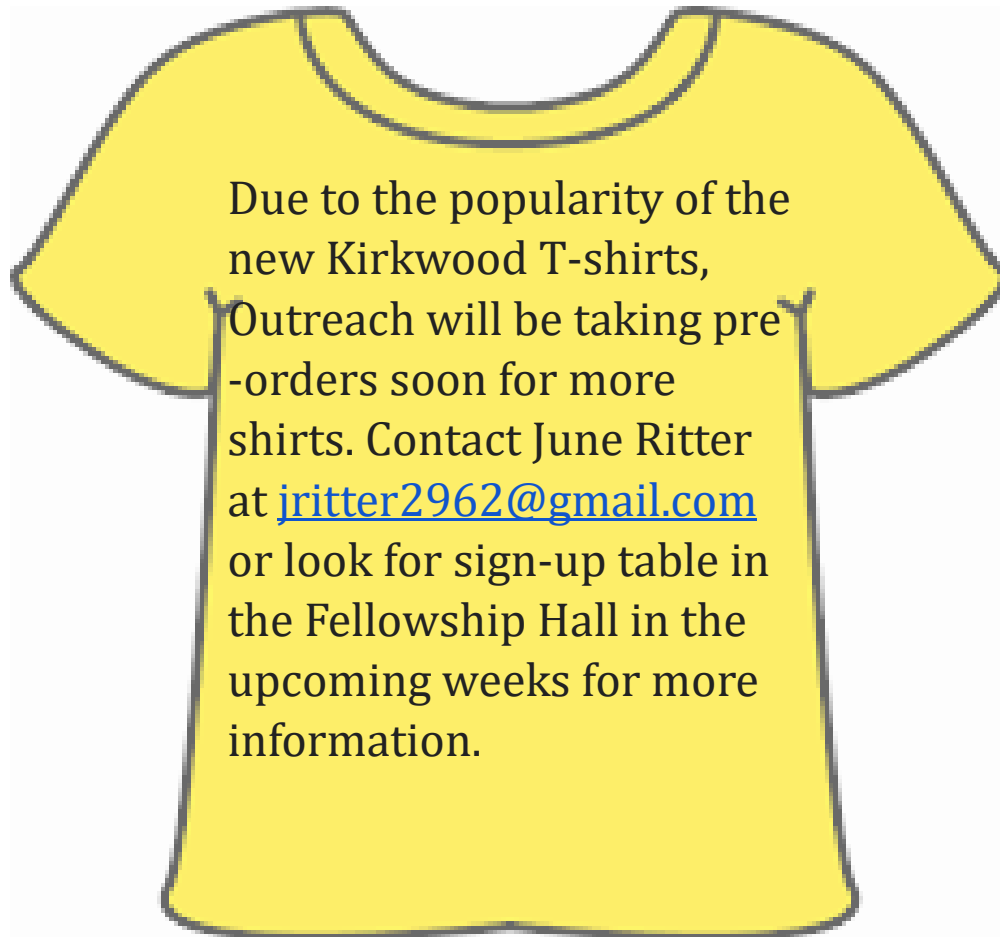
God's Dream by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Douglas Carlton Abrams

A wonderful description of forgiveness and empathy meant for even the youngest of readers. God wants us to care but knows we get angry sometimes. We can do things that help God's dream come true.





Get Your KirkWood Swag!!



Remebering Others in our Community

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, Menchville House, and our sister church, CPK Mikondo, for their Feeding Program in Congo.

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