

KirkWood Kronicle

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

CHANGE



Because we just finished a six-week elective on being Christian in a polarized country, I thought I would use this space to pass along part of a resource that was left “on the cutting room floor” from that class. That is, a portion of a resource that we couldn’t squeeze in.

The citation below is from an article entitled, “The Way of Jesus in a Divided Nation,” published for The Center for Pastoral Theologians, written by Dr. Kristen Deede Johnson (a professor of theology and Christian formation at Western Theological Seminary in Holland, MI). Specifically, it contains two pieces of advice for people like us, trying to follow Jesus in the midst of a country pulling itself apart at the seams:

1) LEARN EACH OTHER’S STORIES (IN ALL THEIR COMPLEXITY)

As humans, we create narratives that provide a way for making sense of the world and of events that take place in this world. Social psychologist, Jonathan Haidt helps us understand why it is hard for us to change our own minds and to change other peoples’ minds through his research. It leads him to conclude that, “people gravitate toward a story that aligns with their current way of seeing the world. It’s our default setting.”

Right now, many of the cultural and political stories we are receiving and telling are overly simplistic. These stories have very clear heroes and very obvious villains, but if you have a different perspective, those heroes and villains flip. He explores interpretations of events in Ferguson, Missouri in light of this hero-villain framework and points



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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



out, tellingly, just how different the renditions of that story become.

As Christians, we ought to be the most equipped to complexify these stories. We know that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, so this should make it impossible to tell a story in which a particular person or political figure (or a particular demographic, series of events, or political party) is either a clear villain or a straightforward hero. As Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn famously wrote, “The line separating good and evil passes not through states, nor between classes, nor between political parties either -- but right through every human heart -- and through all human hearts.”

To help us do this wrestling, we will need to take time. This involves slowing down to learn more about the stories behind the “characters” that are presented to us as either wholly right or wholly wrong within our current cultural scripts. It includes having the humility to listen and to learn from others and about others, rather than assuming we know. It will also involve taking the time to widen our sources. As we often hear, now, the sources we each regularly consult tend to tell and reinforce certain stories and interpretations. While it’s certainly okay to have sources you trust and regularly consult, being intentional about engaging with a wide range of sources can help with this work of complexifying the stories we are both receiving and telling. This might include moving beyond typical news sources, reading thoughtful novels and watching movies or documentaries that can help us enter into different people’s stories and backgrounds.

2) WHEN WE DISAGREE, GO DEEPER

Just as we want to recognize that there are no simplistic stories with straightforward heroes and villains, we want to acknowledge that political and cultural issues are themselves complex. Christians have been disagreeing about important issues since before they were called Christians. Our New Testament is full of stories of the earliest followers of the Way wrestling and disagreeing. The same will be true of us today. Even if we hone in on just the last few decades in the U.S. context, we will come to see the expectation that all Christians would belong to one political party or coalesce clearly





around one political issue or set of issues is a fairly recent one. (And of course, the political parties themselves, their positions, and who tend to support them, regionally and otherwise, have also shifted over time.)

Here we come back to the question of our posture: if we expect disagreement because these issues are complex, what is the appropriate posture for us to have in the midst of these disagreements? How can we continue to embody the way of Jesus even when we encounter disagreements? One answer lies in going deeper. Recognizing that we live in a time of deep difference, can we be intentional about going deep ourselves to try to understand what's beneath the disagreements we are encountering?

The Colossian Way, an initiative of The Colossian Forum that is animated by the conviction that in Christ all things hold together so we don't have to be afraid of our differences, encourages us to ask two questions every time we encounter anger in someone with whom we disagree: what is the fear beneath the anger? And what love is beneath the fear? In other words, what's behind and beneath the anger if we drill down? What is positive that the person, or movement, loves and is trying to preserve? What do they think is at stake? What are they afraid of losing? What do they fear is changing?

I'd encourage us to go deep in our own self-reflection as well. When we feel the anger swelling in us, can we ask ourselves – what is beneath that anger? What fear is fueling that anger? What love is driving that fear?

And we ought to add into this mix that fear and anger are often used as political motivators in this cultural moment. Groups and figures on both sides regularly tap into fears and angers to mobilize people for engagement. When we witness this happening, can we, as Christians, ask God to help us place our fears into the larger context of the hope we have in Christ?

If you're interested in the whole article, which is 4-5 times the length of this citation, you can find it here: [The Way of Jesus in a Divided Nation \(pastortheologians.com\)](http://pastortheologians.com)



November 2nd: **Fall Clean Up** at 8:00 AM
CNU Football Game
Tailgating 11:00 AM

November 3rd: **Food Pantry Collection**
Daylight Saving Time
Ends (Fall Back)
Congregational Meeting
10:30 AM

November 9th: **Drive By Food Collection**
9:00-11:00 AM
Fall Session Retreat
9:00 AM

November 10th: **Military Appreciation**
Celebration 10:30 AM
H.O.P.E. (Helping Other
People Eat) Offering

November 14th: **Blood Drive**
1:00 – 6:00 PM
PORT (St. Stephen’s
Episcopal) 3:00 – 9:00 PM

November 15th: **PORT (St. Stephen’s**
Episcopal) 4:30 – 6:30 AM

November 16th: **KirkWood Silver Outing**
 (“Chitty Chitty Bang
Bang”) 2:00 PM

November 23rd: **Friendsgiving** 6:00 PM

November 24th – **Hanging of the Greens**
11:00 AM

November 28th -29th: **Church Office Closed**
for Thanksgiving

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Congregational Care Update

Congregational Care

Military Appreciation Sunday: On Sunday, November 10th, we will acknowledge our active-duty military and veterans during and after our worship service. Please help us in recognizing the contributions they have made and continue to perform in defense of our great nation by wearing red, white, and blue (or uniforms, if desired, by current and former military), and by joining us in celebration of their service in the fellowship hall at 10:30 AM for cake and ice cream.

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.

November 23, 2024, Friendsgiving at KirkWood, 6:00 PM

December 8, 2024, Steak & Tonic Brunch, City Center, NN, 12:00 PM

January 11, 2025, Thai Tara, Williamsburg, 6:00 PM

February 8, 2025, Los Compadres, Hampton, 6:00 PM

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

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

May 10, 2025, TBD, 6:00 PM

KirkWood Silver: Saturday, November 16 - We have 20 tickets to the play “Chitty Chitty Bang Bang” at the Williamsburg Players Theater at 2:00PM on Saturday, November 16th in Williamsburg. Cost per person will be \$15. We will probably plan to have the church van available for those who would like a ride; likely leave the church at 1:00PM.

Thursday, December 12 - We plan to gather for lunch at 11:30AM on Thursday, December 12th. Lunch will be soup and salad catered by Olive Garden. The movie “Miracle on 34th Street” will be shown for us to enjoy in the Christmas spirit.



KirkWood Walking Group: The KirkWood walking group will be returning to the Matteson Trail on Saturday, November 16th at 10:00 AM. It is a 3 mile paved trail through the woods around the Hamptons Golf course. As always, there will also be options for a 1 or 2 mile walk as well. Nobody walks alone.

Come join the fun, the company, and the great outdoors. The Matteson trail is located at the corner of Neil Armstrong Parkway and Butler Farm Road. We'll meet in the parking lot of the Police Training Center. Our host this month will be Donna Craig.

KirkWood Friendsgiving : Mark your calendars for **Saturday, November 23rd at 6:00 PM** at KirkWood for our Friendsgiving dinner. We will have turkey and all the trimmings to enjoy together as our KirkWood family. Let's make some time to celebrate all we have to be thankful for with our church family.

This dinner is not only a chance to fellowship with fellow KirkWoodians, but it is the final fundraising event for Foundations for the Future, the on-going campaign to fund the recent building and parking lot improvements. We will be accepting donations for the dinner along with Christmas-themed items available for sale.

Dinner is being provided by volunteers in the congregation. Sign up to bring any one of the menu items using this link ([HERE](#)). It is important that you use the online sign-up link ([HERE](#)) or use the sign-up sheet in the foyer so that we know how much food to prepare.

Other Upcoming Events:

Our annual Chili Cook-off is coming in January. More details to come in the next Kroicle.

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. POC is Wendy Linehan (757) 509-8233.

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



We Have So Many Ways to Serve

Missions

Happy November, KirkWood! Your Mission Committee would like to extend the biggest thank you to our entire congregation! Pumpkin Patch 2024 was so successful, and we couldn't have done all we do without the support from each of you. From the beginning with the light set up, pallet distribution, pumpkin offloads, the building of stands to hold our little pumpkins and gourds, countless hours spent manning the patch, and concluding with our Pumpkin Pa-looza, you all gave us, and our community, a great pumpkin season!



P.O.R.T. season is upon us. We prepare and serve our meal on November 14th with varied shifts from 3:00 PM – 9:00 PM and conclude early in the morning on November 15th from 4:30 AM – 6:30 AM at St. Stephens Episcopal Church. The sign up for this event, as well as the three remaining dates, is in the hallway on the Mission Board. The next P.O.R.T. events are the weeks of December 18th – 25th, February 5th -12th, and March 19th – 26th. We will announce and post the dates as they become available.



Our Christmas Offering collection will begin November 3rd and run through December 1st. This offering is split between the Pastor's Blessing Fund and York-Poquoson Department of Social Services (YPDSS). Your Mission Committee has pledged to match giving up to \$5,000 this





year! The offering is being collected earlier this year so that funds can be distributed to YPDSS earlier in the month of December specifically for their holiday community programs. Please look for the QR code to give online through KirkWood's website, or place your donation directly in the collection box in the Narthex with a notation that it is for the Christmas Offering.

Our next drive-by food collection is November 9th from 9:00-11:00 AM in front of the church. These donations will be distributed evenly between our Kupboard, St. Luke's Food Pantry, and the Peninsula Food Bank. Thank you for your continued generous support of our own Kupboard. We anticipate a higher need in the community over the holidays and continue to find donations of shelf-stable milk and a variety of non-perishables very helpful. You can donate financially via the QR code, website, or mark your donation specific to the KirkWood Kupboard.

Our next meeting is November 5th @ 6:30 PM in classroom 4, across from the Fellowship Hall.





Sign Up for Final Blood Drive

Missions

Our next blood drive is Thursday, November 14th from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. This will be our final blood drive for the year.

The schedule for the November 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 drive page.

Busy schedules, travel, holiday commitments, and seasonal illness can all prevent people from signing up to donate or making it to the appointments they made. However, the need for blood remains the same. Please consider signing up to give blood if you aren't regular donor to help offset the decrease in donations by those who do it regularly.

We can always use volunteers. If you are interested in helping out with the drive or with the meal we provide, please contact Cathy.



Share Your Inner Martha Stewart

Worship

Advent is just around the corner. Come help us transform KirkWood for the season as we join together for the annual Hanging of the Greens on Sunday, November 24th at 11:00 AM. With most adult Sunday School classes taking the week off, everyone should be able to attend. When we finish at 12:00 to 12:30 PM, we will stop to have lunch together in Fellowship Hall thanks to our wonderful Congregational Care committee.

We will have boxes of decorations pre-staged at various locations around KirkWood. The more people helping, the merrier. We will have signups for volunteers to help us plan for food starting two weeks before the 24th.





Never Miss an Update

Communications and Technology

Are you getting KirkWood's texts?

KirkWood occasionally utilizes texts to your cell phone to convey urgent messages. Things like urgent volunteer needs, reminders for a special event, or even an encouraging word; typically less than once a week. If you are not getting these, sign-up by texting "CONNECT" to 757-772-0209, follow the prompts, and complete the form. Or just scan this QR code.



The required fine print: You will receive text messages from KirkWood Presbyterian. Message & data rates may apply. Message frequency varies. Reply STOP to stop, HELP for help. Terms: <http://clst.io/terms>. Privacy policy: <http://clst.io/privacy>.



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