

KirkWood Kronicle

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

October 2023



KirkWood Family,

There's been quite a bit of buzz in the American church world over the last few months about the new book, "The Great Dechurching: Who's Leaving, Why Are They Going, and What Will It Take to Bring Them Back," written by Jim Davis (pastor) and Michael Graham (director of The Keller Center for Cultural Apologetics).

I'd like to pass along a few of its insights, at the least, so you don't have to read the whole book in order to benefit from it:

1. We are currently experiencing the single largest and fastest religious shift in the history of America, as upwards of 40 million adults have disaffiliated with church. (pg. 3)
2. This is especially seen among 18-35 year olds: in the mid 1980s about 87% of that age range identified as Christian, whereas now just over half do. The era of the steepest decline, the tipping point you might say, was the 1990s. (pg. 6)
3. Among those adults who have left church and/or Christianity, here are the top 5 reasons they did: 1) the culture wars promulgated by churches, 2) the lack of love and Christian character, 3) the church's unwillingness to listen, 4) the church's unwillingness to engage with other points of view, and 5) the church's racial insensitivity and attitudes. (pgs. 10-11)



KirkWood Presbyterian Church

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Email: office@KirkWoodpcusa.org | Website: <http://www.KirkWoodpcusa.org/>

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



4. Since 2016, the single largest block of those adults dechurched are called “exvangelicals,” those who attended or were involved with evangelical/conservative churches and have now departed. For this particular group, they tended to leave because a) they felt a growing incongruity with the views and values of the congregation, b) they didn’t see or experience much love in their church, c) they had a negative experience in the church, and d) they disagreed with the politics of the church (pgs. 68-69, 74-75)

5. The stats demonstrate that there have been two successive missed “generational handoffs” of Christianity, that is, the older passing the faith and church life on to the younger. The first and most consequential was between millennials (those between 27-42 years old) and older generations. The second and steeper was between Gen Z (those between 18-27 years old) and previous generations. (pgs. 148-150)

The last major section of the book includes strategies for churches who wish to engage and include the dechurched. (More on those another time perhaps.) But for now, let me share the exhortation that ends that section and the book as a whole:

The American church today is at a crossroads. While the kingdom of God will go on, its future in this country is not certain. The first path at this crossroads is the path of fighting for power and authority in society. If we choose this path, we put our supreme hopes in political parties...Or we make the walls between the world and the church as high as possible, shielding us from the world’s influence. We compromise our doctrines and do gymnastics with the Bible to maintain some semblance of a following. We live in the past. We live in denial. This path will diminish our gospel witness and will relegate the church to inevitable irrelevance for generations.

The second path is to embrace our position as exiles, exercising our influence from the margins of power instead of its seat...It will mean taking a hard look at how we interact with the world around us. It will require constant prayer and humble hearts. But this is the path that will lead to the flourishing of the church...





We believe there is hope. The path forward is not easy, but it is simple... The weight of the reality of those departing the church in America can cause us to want to put our heads in the sand. But God and His grace allows us to acknowledge and sit with the gravity of grief that rightfully accompanies the Great Dechurching. It allows us to own our responsibility for the departing, whatever that may be... The Great Dechurching could well be the American church's most crucial moment, wakeup call, and greatest opportunity.

Warmly,
Pastor Chris

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October 1 – World Communion Sunday

October 7 – Walking Group at 9:00 AM
(Matteson Trail)

October 8 – Biscuit Sunday

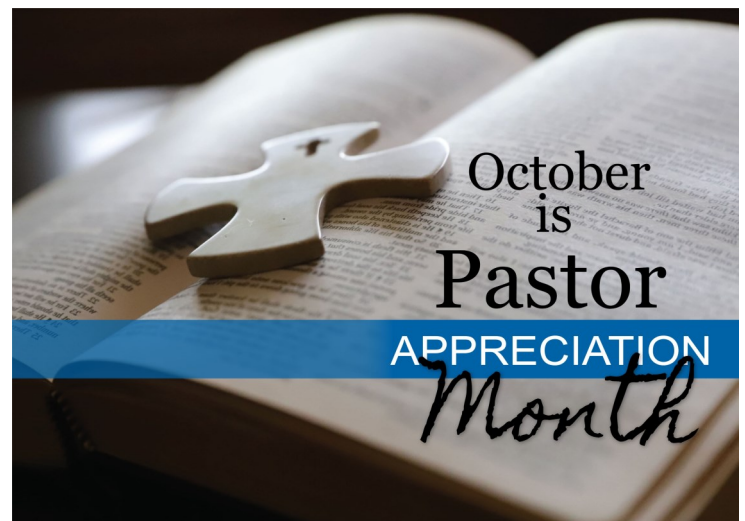
October 9 – Columbus Day, Indigenous Peoples Day

October 13 – Pumpkin Unloading at 9:30 AM

October 14 – Pumpkin Unloading at 8:30 AM;
Pumpkin Palooza 11:00 AM-4:00 PM

October 29 – Reformation Sunday

November 4 – CNU Tailgate





Try “One New Thing” at KirkWood

Congregational Care

KIRKWOOD SILVER is planning a fantastic event for October! The event will be a Party on the Lawn (KW's lawn!) on Thursday, October 19, at 11:30AM. Lunch will be boxed lunches from The Honey Baked Ham Co. and will include a sandwich, a bag of chips, and a cookie. Sandwich choices will be Ham and Cheese, Turkey and Cheese, or Chicken Salad. Cookie choices are Chocolate Chip or Oatmeal. Chip choices are Regular or BBQ. The cost will be \$13 per boxed lunch.

After lunch, the real fun begins! Lawn games! Anne Effler will supervise Corn Hole, mini-water balloon toss, and more! Please sign up in the Narthex and give your lunch choices beginning October 1st and ending October 15th. Bring your lawn chairs. If the weather isn't cooperative, we will move the event inside, minus the water fun! A special invitation is extended to anyone who has never joined in on the super fellowship and fun our KirkWood Silvers have! If you have questions, call

Anne Effler at 757-358-3069/ anneeffler1@gmail.com, or
Wanda Birch at 757-868-8651/ wandjbirch@verizon.net (before Oct. 9).

BISCUIT SUNDAY! On Sunday, October 8th between worship and Sunday School, we are having our inaugural “Biscuit Sunday”. This is a potluck so please bring your favorite biscuit recipe for the event. Buttermilk biscuits, sourdough biscuits, ham biscuits, sausage biscuits, biscuits and gravy—they're all welcome! And what about English biscuits (you know, cookies)? They're great too. Don't miss out on this chance to up your carb load and expand your waistline! Point of contact is Wendy Linehan (757) 509-8233.

KIRKWOOD DINING PARTNERS invite you to join them at Indulge Bistro in Newport News for an Oktoberfest celebration on Saturday, October 14th at 6:00 PM. Point of contact is Cindy Williamson (757) 344-5577.





VETERANS' DAY will be recognized with a Military Appreciation potluck dinner on Saturday, November 11th, at 6:00 PM.

IN DECEMBER, we will be celebrating the Christmas season with “Cookies, Carols, and ‘A Christmas Carol’ on Sunday, December 10th, at 6:30 PM. Point of Contact is Lew Goodman.

MEAL SUPPORT can be provided through the Congregational Care Committee due to illness, hospitalization, or other circumstances you require assistance in providing meals for yourself or family. 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.

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.

THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE will be selling KirkWood T-shirts in the Fellowship Hall after worship services for the next several Sundays. The short sleeve shirts are \$10.00 each and available in a variety of sizes and colors. They would be great to wear while working at the Pumpkin Patch and the Palooza. Contact June Ritter (757) 329-4010), Arba or Cindy Williamson (757) 344-5588 with questions.



Get Outside with KirkWoodians

Congregational Care

KirkWood is hosting a tailgate at the CNU football game on Saturday, Nov. 4th. Tailgating starts at 11:00 AM and kickoff is at 1:00 PM. If you'd like to attend the game, tickets are \$15. Kathryn Kelchner is organizing ticket purchases so please see her or leave money in an envelope at the church office marked "Tailgate". Please pay no later than October 21. Checks should be made to Kathryn, not KirkWood. Parking at CNU is a short walk from the tailgate area. If you'd prefer to purchase a tailgate pass and not walk, Kathryn can also take care of that (passes are \$25). Free, handicapped parking is available in the tailgate area - with a handicapped parking permit. Tailgating is right next to the stadium, but there are shuttles to transport anyone who needs assistance.

There is a SignUp Genius at: [CNU Football Sign Up](#) for food at the tailgate. KirkWood will provide sodas and water. Bring a chair and you can store it in Kathryn's vehicle to pick up after the game. Details with directions and parking will be emailed to anyone who purchases a ticket or signs up for the tailgate. If you need more information, you can contact Kathryn at (757)968-9948.



THE KIRKWOOD WALKING GROUP will be returning to the Matteson Trail on Saturday, October 7th at 9:00 AM. This is a beautiful time of year and this trail is perfect for the season. 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.



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. If you have any questions, contact Bruce

Knight 757-303-4252 or Janet Knight 757-303-4253.



Stewardship: Time, Talents, and Pumpkins

Stewardship

It is now October, and it is the season of the year for KirkWood's Pumpkin Patch. When you arrive at the church property you will see hundreds and hundreds of pumpkins that need to be sold. But how do these pumpkins relate to stewardship? During the past few months, you have read numerous articles from your Stewardship committee about your time, your talents, your money, and your prayers.

Your time - The pumpkins arrive in a large semi-trailer truck. They need to be unloaded on a Friday morning (October 13th). When you help to unload the truck, you are giving your **time** to the church. Every day in October there are numerous shifts of 2 hours each to sell the pumpkins. Once again, giving of your time.

Your Talents – On Saturday October 14th, the church needs your **talents** to help with Pumpkin Palooza. Our Outreach Committee has spent hours organizing this event and they are looking for volunteers to help.

Your Money – Buy your pumpkins at the church and an extra donation would be appreciated. All of the profits are used for mission projects.

Your Prayers – Please **pray** for the success of the Pumpkin Patch. Many people learn about KirkWood for the first time because of their visit to the Patch. **Pray** they feel welcomed and consider KirkWood a church home. It may be their only contact with KirkWood. **Pray** that the monies from the Patch are helpful to all of the organizations we support.

The Fall Pumpkin Patch is a unique opportunity to express your stewardship in a wonderful environment and to enjoy a day outside in October.



Last 2023 Blood Drive: November 16

Mission

BLOOD DRIVE-Our next and final 2023 KirkWood Blood Drive is scheduled for **THURSDAY, November 16th, from 2:00 PM-7:00 PM in the fellowship hall.** Donors can schedule their appointments by going online to www.redcrossblood.org; sponsor code: KirkWoodPC. All donors are encouraged to complete the RAPID PASS on the day of the drive. RAPID PASS lets you do the prescreen process from your laptop, desk top computer or cell phone and can save you as much as 15-20 minutes when you get to the drive. The Red Cross will send a link to your email the day of the drive. If you have questions or would like to inquire as to how you can help at upcoming drives, please contact Cathy Hudgins, 757-869-2645 or hudgepudge@aol.com.

We are looking for a couple of volunteers to help with registration and in the canteen during the drive.

If you need assistance making your appointment, contact Cathy. There is an urgent need for all types of blood now and always. Please prayerfully consider coming out and donating to this lifesaving need.

Donna Craig will be coordinating the food for our drives. If you would like to donate any food items or desserts, or help with a monetary donation to defray the cost, contact Donna: donnacraig029@gmail.com.



The Red Cross has lifted the ban for those who served overseas during the 80's. This is no longer a permanent deferral, so please, if you can, donate.



It's Pumpkin Time!

Missions

Thank You to all of KirkWood for your continued support of our Little Free Food Pantry. It is nestled nicely into its new location in the circle under the trees and is being used regularly. It is a joy to see it in use and wonderful to see all the items being dropped in the bin in the Narthex.

If you are interested in helping us monitor and organize the Pantry, the Mission Committee would welcome your help. We have a SignUp Genius or you can additionally contact Lisa Woodman (lwoodman1@outlook.com) or Lisa Nickerson (lanickers62@gmail.com), and we will help you sign up for a time to help! Monitoring just requires a little bit of time to swing by a few times per week, check on the status, and refill with supplies from the bin.

By the time you read this newsletter, the PUMPKINS will have arrived! Our SignUp Genius for the Pumpkin Patch is up and running. Prayerfully consider volunteering some time in the patch, get to know our new members, reconnect with old friends, and get to meet and greet members of the community around us. We will also have a hard copy of the sign up in the fellowship hall after church, and we can help get you signed up then as well! The patch officially opens September 29th, after the first offload, and we will be open Sundays 12:00-6:00 PM, Monday-Thursday 2:00-7:00 PM, Fridays 2:00-8:00 PM, and Saturdays 10:00 AM-8:00 PM through October 31st.

See you in the Patch!





Pumkin Palooza!!!

Outreach

Pumpkin Palooza will be held on Saturday, October 14th from 11:00AM – 4:00PM. There will be a Food Truck (Jimmy Da Greek's Deli) and the Sweet Frog truck, bounce houses, and games and activities for kids of all ages. This is one of the most important events at KirkWood. In the past two years, there have been over 750 visitors to our Pumpkin Palooza. What a wonderful opportunity to meet and greet our neighbors and to show our appreciation for their support of the Pumpkin Patch mission. We will need 15 volunteers in 2-hour shifts to monitor the bounce houses and game area and coordinate the activity tables. Support the Pumpkin Palooza by volunteering. See Arba Williamson after worship service or call (757) 344-5588 to sign up.



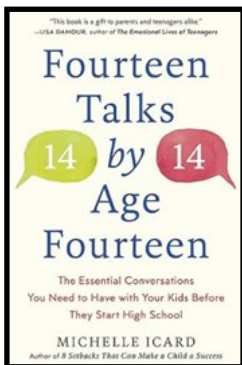


New in the Library

Christian Education

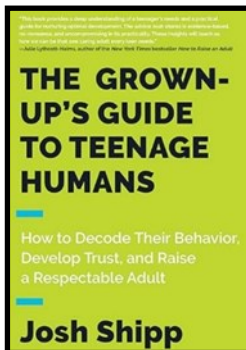
Did you know...

The Children's library has a shelf dedicated to the grown-ups in charge. See these new additions and so much more in Room 2/Glory room.



Fourteen Talks by Age Fourteen by Michelle Icard

“The fourteen essential conversations to have with your tween and early teenager to prepare them for the emotional, physical, and social challenges ahead.”



The Grown-Up's Guide to Teenage Humans

By Josh Shipp

Written to show us all how “to be that caring adult in a teenager’s life”, stressing the need for compassion, trust, and encouragement. Invest in kids and give them the love, time, and support they need to thrive.

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Knowing, Loving, and Serving Christ,



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