

KirkWood Kronicle

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

October 2024



KirkWood family, it's not lost on me that we're in the final laps of a contentious presidential election. Perhaps you feel your own anxiety or agitation rise with each passing week? Or perhaps you wish we could all climb in a time machine and go backward to a more civil time in our country's history? (When exactly that might be is another question entirely.)

For all of us seeking to follow Jesus in this season of nationwide worry and friction, maybe this month the best way to use this space is to convey a blog post from Rev. Dr. Allen Hilton, creator of the House United Movement (a Christian nonprofit whose mission is "brings people together across lines of political and racial difference for the common good").

Dr. Hilton writes as follows:

"Ancient Greek philosopher Diogenes was infamously hard on his students, quick and harsh as a critic. One time, a student failed ethically in a miserable way, having lapsed into what the church might label a mortal sin. The student grieved and suffered, waiting for the expected berating. As he sat out in the hot sun and braced for the inevitable, though, Diogenes walked forward...and simply sat down silently next to his miserable mentee.



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 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



In the language of Ecclesiastes, the great philosopher knew it was not ‘a time to kill,’ it was ‘a time to heal.’

There is a time for everything. But what happens when a time to dance for one half of our nation arrives simultaneously with a time to mourn for the other half? After each presidential election, one side celebrates, and one side grieves. It’s inevitable.

The current American moment requires graduate level empathy from the American people who, recent studies suggest, are pretty remedial at it. Social scientists have chronicled a growing trend in the last two decades called ‘selective empathy.’ In a trove of research, they’ve observe that Democrats and Republicans increasingly reserve their compassion for their own tribes.

Friends, Jesus wouldn't be caught anywhere in the stratosphere of selective empathy. We who hope and claim to follow him are called to emulate his unconditioned compassion. And that's good news, because a bit of compassion would come in handy right now. We’ve all had years of basic training in polarized behavior and instinctually want to throw salt in each other’s wounds. We may never say it out loud but this is how we feel in our hearts daily. But the one who commands us to love enemies turns that logic upside down. In the reign of God, we reserve our best efforts at empathy for precisely the people our own in-group would incline us to hate.

‘Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep,’ writes the apostle Paul. Can we break formation with our culture's coldness and let grace abound?

One side will win the upcoming election. And one side won’t. But what if in that moment Christians could awaken to the glories God has in store for those who stay engaged across our differences and led the way in compassion and mutual respect?

If so, maybe a century from now, someone will write a book chronicling the societal bridge that religion became in 21st-century America.”





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October Special Dates




October 12th – 2nd Pumpkin Delivery
(Time TBA)

October 12th - Dining Partners at
6:30PM (Saté: A New American
Experience)

October 13th – H.O.P.E. (Helping Other
People Eat) Offering

October 19th – Walking Group at
10:00AM (Air Power Park)

October 20th - November Kronicle
Deadline at 3:00PM

October 26th – Pumpkin Palooza
11:00AM-4:00PM

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Congregational Care Update

Congregational Care

Sunday, October 13th:

Another “Biscuit Sunday” is just around the corner. Join us after the worship service for all sorts and kinds of biscuits. Now, let’s all say in unison: “Yummm!”

Saturday, November 2nd:

Are you ready for some football? After helping the P&F Committee with Fall Clean-up that morning, take some time to relax and enjoy a home football game at CNU at 1:00PM (earlier if you want to tailgate). Those who attended last year had a great time. POC is Kathryn Kelchner (threexys@gmail.com)

Dates and Locations for additional Dining Partner events:

- October 12, 2024, Sate, City Center, NN, 6:30PM
- November 23, 2024, KirkWood Thanksgiving, 6:00PM
- December 8, 2024, Steak & Tonic Brunch, City Center, NN, 12:00PM
- January 11, 2025, Thai Tara, Williamsburg, 6:00PM
- February 8, 2025, Los Compadres, Hampton, 6:00PM
- March 15, 2025, Kephil 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 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.

KirkWood Silver Has Plans Into Winter



Groups are Out and About

Congregational Care

Thursday, October 17 - We will meet at 2:00PM at the Play-A-Round Family Fun Center on Route 17 in York County. Cost for our group will be \$6 per person. Address: 5021 George Washington Memorial Highway, Yorktown.

Saturday, November 16 - We have 20 tickets to the play “Chitty Chitty Bang Bang” at the Williamsburg Players Theater at 2:00PM 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 catered by Olive Garden for soup and salad. The movie “Miracle on 34th Street” will be shown for us to enjoy in the Christmas spirit.

Thursday, January 16 - We will enjoy lunch at Al Fresco’s in Newport News at 11:30AM. If enough people want a ride, we will plan to use the church van to go to lunch from the church, details later.

KirkWood Walking Group Going to a Hidden Gem in the Middle of Hampton

As the days are cooler in the wonderful fall season, on Saturday October 19th at 10:00AM, the KirkWood Walking Group will be meeting at Air Power Park for a walk on a beautiful trail in the heart of Hampton. It starts at Air Power Park, 413 W. Mercury Blvd in Hampton (near the intersection of Mercury Blvd and LaSalle Ave). The trail winds over a large marsh on a long wooden bridge and works its way all the way to Hampton Coliseum.

As always, there will be options for the gentle walkers to the advanced hikers (options of 1, 2, and 4 mile hikes). Come join us on this walk as we marvel at God’s beauty and the enjoyment of each other’s company.

Any questions, contact Janet Knight (757) 303-4253 or Bruce Knight (757) 303-4252.



So Many Ways to Help Others

Missions

Happy October, KirkWood! The Pumpkin Patch is in full swing, and we are so thankful for all your help and support, from set up, offload, candy donations, and your generous donation of time spent volunteering in the patch!

Our patch is such a valuable gift to our community. We are known all around this time of year for our beautiful patch and its photo opportunities, helpful and friendly volunteers, and our annual Pumpkin Palooza (coming October 26th). Each year, our portion of the donations from our patch is used exclusively for the multiple missions our committee supports locally, nationally, and across the globe.

Locally, our mighty group of volunteers utilizes our pumpkin patch proceeds to help the residents of Poquoson and York County by building wheelchair ramps, making small home repairs and improvements, and other projects designed to help those families and individuals in need. Regionally, we support our partnership with THRIVE with many volunteers giving their time and talents to get the new building in tip top shape for its grand opening! We support the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program, which helps those affected by devastating natural disasters across our country and globe.

Another program we support with volunteers from KirkWood and our patch donations, is PORT (People Offering Resources Together). PORT is an emergency Winter shelter with the intent to house the homeless on the coldest nights of the year. PORT started in 1991 and serves upwards of 120 people per night, for a total of 20 weeks during the winter. KirkWood partners with several area churches by preparing and providing a hot meal four times during the 20-week period, beginning in November. Be on the lookout for upcoming PORT information and opportunities!



Please Join a Special Blood Drive

Mission

We would like to thank everyone who continues to support The KirkWood Kupboard, St. Luke’s Food Pantry, and the Peninsula Food Bank. Point of contact for all things food pantry-related is Catherine Gough at cgough1965@gmail.com. If you are looking for a quiet way to volunteer, consider becoming a member of Catherine’s Kupboard Monitor Team. Contact Catherine, Lisa, Nickerson, (757) 880-5518, or Toni (719) 237-1156 and we would be happy to chat with you!

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Our final Red Cross Blood Drive of 2024 is scheduled for **Thursday, November 14th from 1:00PM – 6:00PM** in the fellowship hall. **Note the date change from the published dates earlier in the year.** As of publishing of the Kronicle, we do not have the menu for the drive.

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.

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.

2025 Blood Drive Dates (all in the Fellowship Hall)

February 20 1:00 - 6:00PM	May 15 1:00 - 6:00PM	August 21 1:00 - 6:00PM	November 20 1:00 - 6:00PM
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Update on Capital Improvements

Stewardship

Foundations for the Future, KirkWood's fundraising campaign to fund major maintenance projects, kicked off late last year. To date, the campaign has raised over \$110,000. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

The projects included in the campaign are: 1) replacing the roof (completed in November 2023), 2) resealing the parking lot (completed in spring 2024), 3) upgrading the sound system in the sanctuary (completed in September 2024), and 4) adding 10 new parking spaces in the parking lot (also completed in September 2024). What remains from the original plan are the additional parking places, which are expected to be completed in the near future.

In order to fund the additional parking places we need to raise approximately \$30,000 by year-end. KirkWood has a generous offer to match any gifts up to \$10,000 between now and the end of the year, so your gift to the campaign will be DOUBLED. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the effort to close out the campaign. Thank you for everything you have done to help us reach our campaign goal.



**MOREOVER, IT IS
REQUIRED OF STEWARDS
THAT THEY BE
FOUND FAITHFUL.**

1 CORINTHIANS 4:2, ESV



Pumpkin Stewardship

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 Saturday morning, October 12th. When you help to unload the truck, you are giving your time to the church. Every day in October there are numerous 2-hour shifts to sell the pumpkins. <https://rebrand.ly/2024Patch> Once again, giving of your time.

Your Talents – On Saturday October 26th, 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 because of their visit to the Patch. It is their first contact with KirkWood. Pray that we reach new people through this unique outreach opportunity. Finally, 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.





Check Us Out...in the Library!

Christian Education



The children's library in Room 5 has a fresh look. The books are organized by category with a colored sticker on the spine. Just pick out a book and keep as long as you need it. Bring it back and put it with the other books that have the same color sticker. If there is something that you would like to see, give recommendations to Jeannine Scott.

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