

KirkWood Kronicle

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

September 2023



KirkWood Family,

As I prepared to head out for a week of rest, which will include a whole lot of time with our recently-returned daughter, I realized that I had one last item on my to-do list – this month’s Kronicle article. Given that it’s only been six hours since our Sunday morning dive into the fathomless question, “Where do we go when we die?”, my mind is still fairly preoccupied with all I learned over the last seven days, all I answered for myself, all I didn’t, and all I wish I had time to

cover this morning but couldn’t.

While meandering through the searchable United Church of Christ daily devotional website, I stumbled upon this one, and it seemed like a suitable postscript, a reminder that another way to experience a precursory glimpse of heaven is at the special “thin places” of our lives.

Warmly,
Pastor Chris

Thin Places

by Rev. Cornershop Creative | Pastor Emeritus – 1st Church of Christ (UCC), Pittsfield, MA
Dec 21, 2016

*“Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, ‘Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!’”
– Genesis 28: 16*

In Jacob’s dream he sees a stairway to heaven with angels ascending and descending it. He named the place Bethel, “the place of God.” The ancient Celts called such spots “thin places”,



KirkWood Presbyterian Church

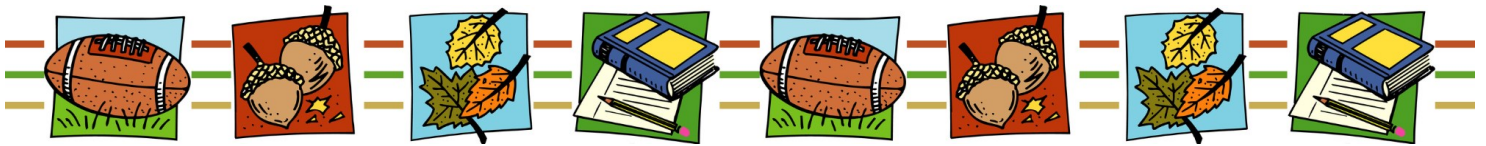
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Phone: 757-766-0343

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.

Sunday School: Begins again September 17 at 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM



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(cont.)

where the distance between heaven and earth collapses.

Thin places can be famous holy spots such as the Isle of Iona or the Cathedral de Notre Dame, but more often than not they are ordinary places, such as Bethel, or a dusty road on the way to Damascus.

You can search for thin places, but, as with Jacob, it is more likely that they will find you. Such unexpected encounters with the Holy

seem to happen in times of crisis: Jacob running away from home, Saul on his way to persecute the church.

Is it the place itself that allows for these glimpses of the advent of God? Or is it some special state of mind and heart? Either way there are times and places when the ordinarily reliable distinction between heaven and earth gets erased.

Even if we see no burning bush or ladder to heaven, nor hear the voice of Jesus, we are no less certain that we have come upon a thin place, and can say, as Jacob did, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!"

Prayer – "Keep us alive and alert, O God, in all places and times, that we may not miss the momentary glimpses of heaven You graciously provide, amen."



*Upcoming
Events*

September 3 - Food Pantry Collection

September 4 - Labor Day

September 10 – Annual Church Picnic;
H.O.P.E. Offering; National Grandparents
Day

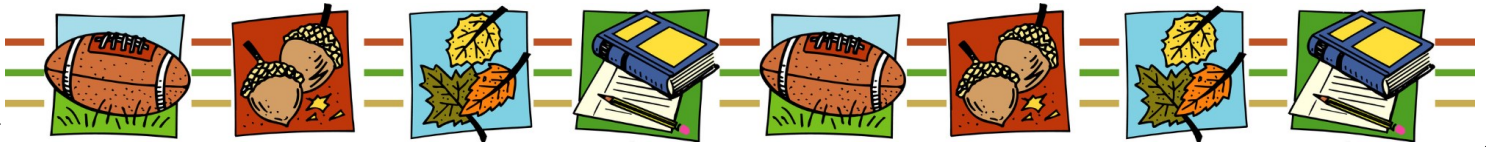
September 11 - Patriot Day

September 16 – Walking Group at 9 AM;
Dining Partners at 6 PM

September 17 – Sunday School Resumes

September 21 - Women's Bible Study

September 23 - First Day of Autumn



Get Involved

Outreach

By the time, you read this article, the Summer of 2023 will be over. It's back to school and the start of fall sports and lots of other activities. It's also a time of wonderful opportunities to invite neighbors and friends to KirkWood.

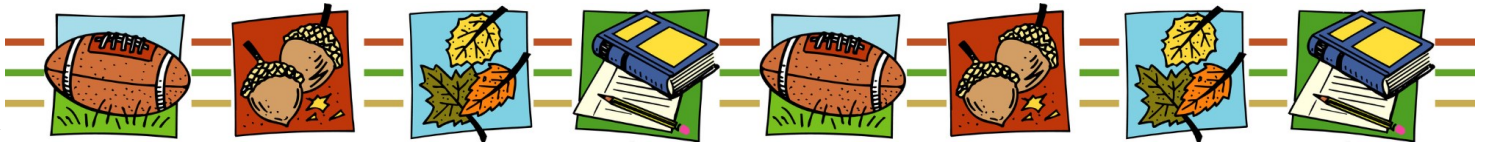
The Outreach Committee and some wonderful volunteers recently delivered "welcome bags" to the new neighborhood next door to KirkWood. Included was an invite to the KirkWood Picnic on September 10th. We can all join in! Invite your neighbors and friends to the picnic to share a meal and fellowship.

Soon we will be preparing for the KirkWood Pumpkin Patch. In addition to supporting the Navajo Nation and many ministries, the Patch is KirkWood's time to shine. Volunteering in the Patch gives each of us the opportunity to show God's love and affirm our commitment to serving our neighbors and furthering God's Kingdom.

The Outreach Committee will also coordinate the "Pumpkin Palooza", a special fun filled Saturday (October 21st) to let our community know how much we appreciate their support.

Volunteer opportunities abound! Sign up to work in the Patch or Palooza and join the fun!





KirkWood Dining Partners

Congregational Care

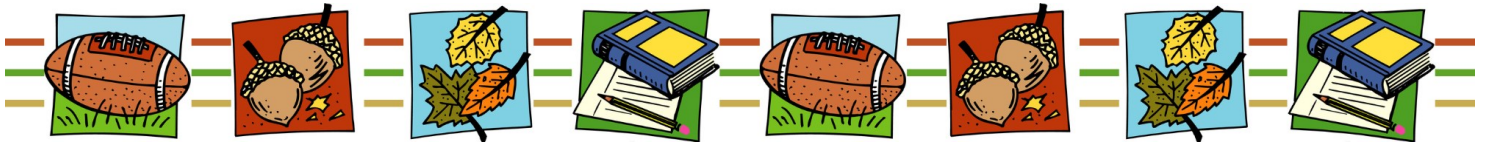
We're back!!! Getting organized after our summer break. We love spending time together talking, laughing, and enjoying a shared experience and meal with our church family. Please consider joining KirkWood Dining Partners for any, or all, of the upcoming Kirkwood Dining Partners activities and reach out to others to join us. It's a great way to get to know others and spend time together. Feel free to drop either Arba or Cindy Williamson a note with any suggestions – we are always looking for different places to try and welcome your input. There will be sign-up sheets for the eating out events in the Narthex and reminders in the bulletin.

If you have any questions, please contact Arba (awillia114@aol.com) or Cindy (cwillic114@gmail.com) or ask anyone who participated before – we had a lot of fun and meaningful conversations.

Locations below are tentative so please watch the bulletin and weekly church e-mails for final plans or changes to our schedule.

Dates for KirkWood Dining Partners

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|---------|
| September 16, 2023 | Dock of the Bay, Carrollton | 6:00 PM |
| October 14, 2023 | Indulge Bistro (Octoberfest theme) | 6:00 PM |
| November 18, 2023 | Toscana | 6:00 PM |
| December 16, 2023 | TBD – Any ideas? | 6:00 PM |
| January 13, 2024 | Peter Chang (Williamsburg) | 6:00 PM |
| February 10, 2024 | County Grill | 6:00 PM |
| March 9, 2024 | Pho Diner | 6:00 PM |
| April 13, 2024 | Three Amigos | 6:00 PM |



KIRKWOOD SILVER has tickets for a matinee performance of "Brighton Beach Memoirs," on Saturday, September 16th, at 2:00 PM. The tickets are \$17 each (a price increase!). To reserve yours, see Gloria Griffin at church or contact her at 757-719-0995 or gloriagriffin@cox.net. The van will be going and will leave at 12:45 from the church. Everyone should be at the theater by 1:40 in order to get our seat assignments. Please sign up in the Narthex. Act quickly! Tickets are going fast!

KIRKWOOD SILVER will kick off its new year with a "pizza and cookies" luncheon on Thursday, September 21st, at 11:30 AM. Following lunch, we will visit The Holy Land virtually! We were awed by the presentation of slides and commentary at worship in July, but many of us didn't get enough of it and would like a second, more leisurely look! We have requested a "do-over" at a slower pace with some additional slides added. Several of the travelers will offer commentary and answer questions. Invite someone new to join us for this fun fellowship! Please sign up in the Narthex before September 17th. Point of contact: Wanda Birch, 757-868-8651, or wandjbirch@verizon.net

KWS looking ahead: Watch for details soon!

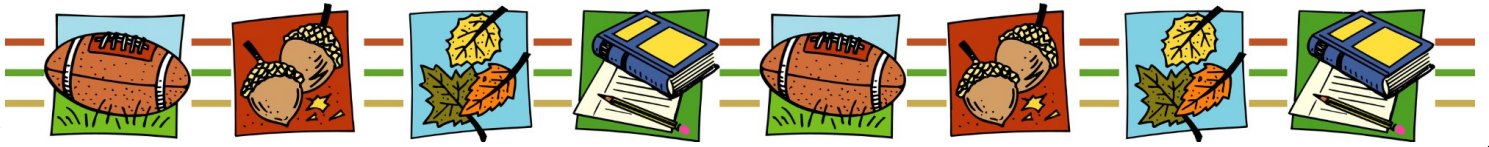
October 19th - 11:30 AM - Party on the Lawn - Box lunch from Honey Baked Ham and yard games, corn hole, etc.!

November 16th - 11:30 AM - Lunch out at Jimmy da Greeks on Route 17 Southbound.

Walking Group Goes to Hidden Gem in Hampton

As summer winds down and gives way to a new fall season, on Saturday September 16 at 9:00 AM, 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 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.

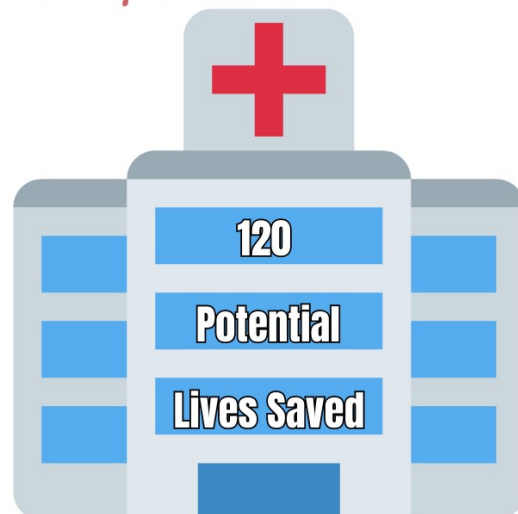


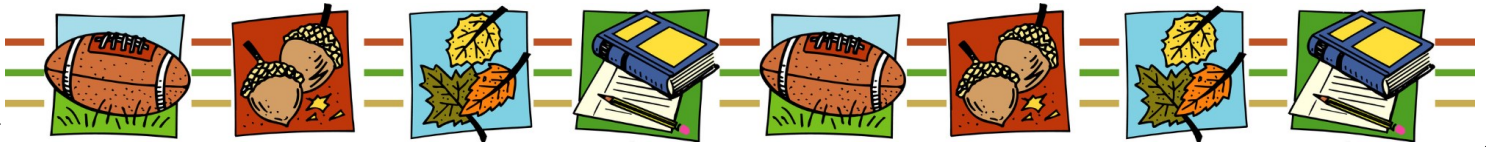
Blood Drive Update

Mission



Results of your participation ...





Pumpkins...and other food

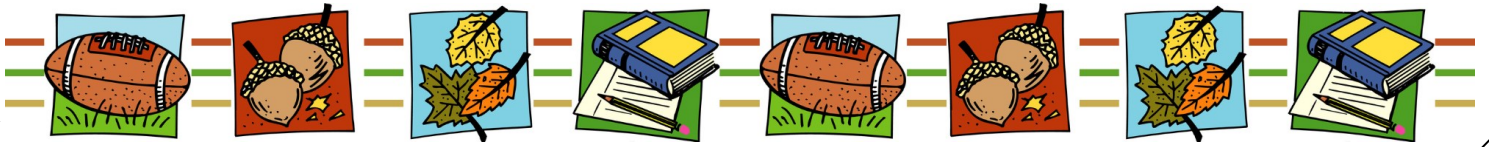
Mission



Thank You to all of KirkWood for your continued support of our Little Free Food Pantry. It has helped many families in need over the summer! Alert: the Pantry is on the move! Be on the lookout for its new location in the circle closer to the church under the trees. We are so happy that KirkWood's food ministry, including our own pantry and supporting larger needs through St. Luke's Food Pantry, continues to bless others.

We regularly monitor the pantry supply and integrity and have found that the items being used more regularly are canned meats such as tuna and chicken, boxed dry cereals, boxed dinners such as Hamburger/Tuna Helper, canned ravioli/spaghetti O's, peanut butter, and pasta/pasta sauces. Please be advised that items in the pantry should ideally be in their original packaging for the best food safety. For example, crackers should be kept in their original boxes and not have sleeves loose in the pantry. Additionally, carbonated beverages present a hazard to the pantry in both the heat and cooler months approaching. We have a box in the Narthex labeled for the Little Free Food Pantry, so feel free to place items there and/or directly into the Pantry. If you are interested in helping us monitor and organize the Pantry, the Mission Committee would welcome your help. Contact Lisa Woodman (lwoodman1@outlook.com) or Lisa Nickerson (lanickers62@gmail.com) and we will help you sign up for some time to help!

The Pumpkins are coming!! Please mark your calendars for Saturday, September 23 for Pumpkin Patch set up at 9 AM. We will be installing lighting, putting out the pallets, arranging the hay bales for our picture spot, organizing the tables, and placing signs in our "Mission Field". Also keep Friday September 29 and Friday October 13 free for pumpkin deliveries and offloading from 9-11 AM. The patch officially opens September 29 after the first offload! Please watch the bulletin and our social media sites for the SignUp Genius and pick a shift to help in the patch or help with being a counter. We will be open Sundays 12-6 PM, Monday-Thursday 2-7 PM, Fridays 2-8 PM, and Saturdays 10 AM-8 PM. See you in the Patch!



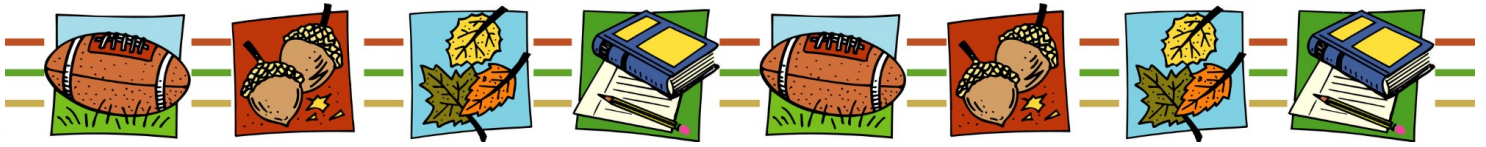
Remembering our Neighbors' Needs

Mission

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.





Sunday Morning News

Worship

What is your name? My name is Nancy Ridsen.

I've noticed that there are times when I have a hard time understanding or remembering someone's name. It could be due to the noise at the time, my hearing, other distractions, or time constraints. It is often easier to read a nametag.

With several new members and visitors, we would like to go back to wearing name-tags to make it easier for everyone. The Worship Committee came up with the following idea so you will not have to keep track of your name tag. We will have the new name tags hanging on portable stands near the doors that you enter. As you leave each Sunday, there will be a box near each door in which to drop your tag. The tags will be sorted and hung for the following week.

To get this process started, we need your help to return your previous name tag ASAP, as we will have to order some new holders, clips, etc.

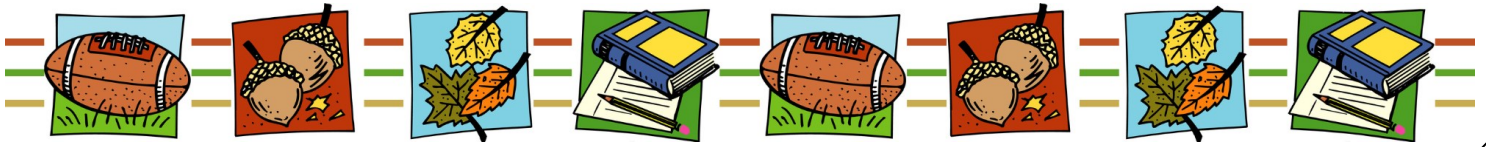
If you have your nametag, please place it (as is, with the lanyard or clip and regardless of the condition) in the box labeled NAME TAGS.

If you don't have a name tag, print your name on a piece of paper and put it in the box so we make sure you get one. There will be a sign-up sheet later if you need more time.

If you are a staff member or elder with a magnetic tag, continue what works for you, but we encourage you to wear the name tag each week.

Any questions, please contact: Bruce Knight at: bdknight03@hotmail.com or Nancy Ridsen at: ndrisden@gmail.com





Back to (Sunday) School Time!

Christian Education

Fall 2023 Sunday Study - Celebrate Communion

SUNDAY STUDY BEGINS September 17th for all ages!

This fall K-12, and Adult Sunday Study groups (8:30 & 11:00 AM) will be looking at another PCUSA Curriculum unit. We will be looking at the Celebrate Communion study. These study groups are designed to be drop in lessons.

While they focus on one theme, each week is a standalone lesson. Please join us whenever your schedule allows. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**



Study Dates: September 17, 24, Oct. 1, 8

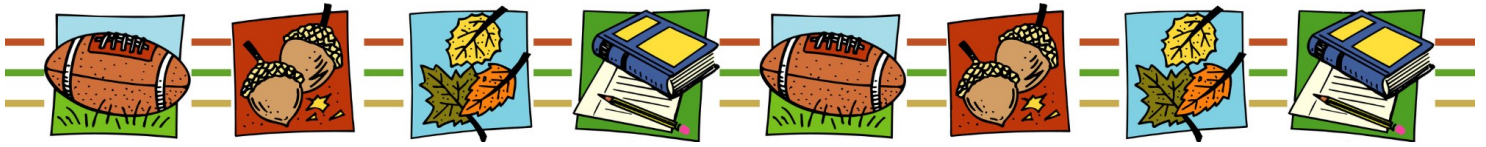
Celebrate Communion - Study Overview

Ever since Jesus took bread, gave thanks, shared it with his disciples, and told followers to do this in his memory, Christians have reenacted the moment. Over time, services of communion have been created and discussions about just what should be included have resulted in liturgies and prayers that pass on from generation to generation. Although Christians agree on the importance of communion, the meaning and practice of communion is multi-faceted and rich.

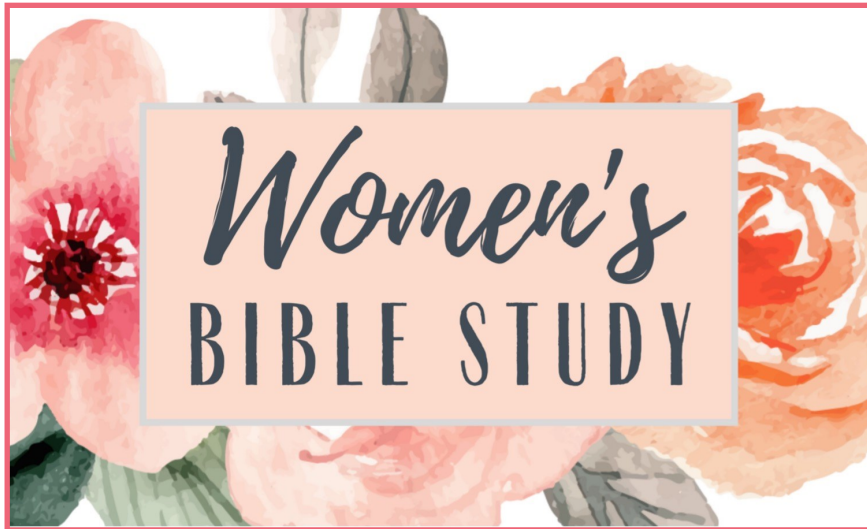
Throughout this unit, participants will learn that communion is a physical act, a spiritual gift, and a call for a pattern for living, in which we receive the gifts of God, give thanks, break them open, and share them with one another and the world. These actions of taking, blessing, breaking, and giving are central to the unity to the body of Christ. The four dimensions of the practice discussed include: give thanks, share meals, be fed, and feed others.

(Study Overview Video 5:30) <https://bit.ly/KW-CommunionStudy>

Contact Christine Pregler – preglerweims@gmail.com with any questions.



WANTED: WOMEN INTERESTED IN A WOMEN'S SMALL GROUP



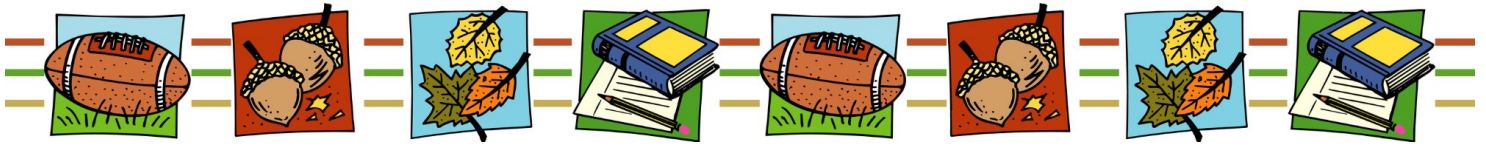
A women's bible study small group will restart Sept 21st via Zoom. Why Zoom? We have many female members who have reached out who are interested in attending but have night driving limitations, small children to get into bed, distance from the church is significant. In spite of those obstacles, all would enjoy a time for women to support women, to laugh, cry, study

the word and be lifted! The goal is to meet twice a month on Thursdays via Zoom with a quarterly face to face get together on a Sunday afternoon for a casual brunch. We will be using a hybrid of video, book, online studies, and other materials to help us along the way! **THIS IS A DROP-IN GROUP! If you miss a date, come the next one, we are happy to have you join whenever you are able!**

If this is of any interest to you, please contact Christine Pregler via email at preglerweims@gmail.com and she will add you to the list.

September Dates: 9/21

October Dates: 10/5 and 10/19



AGES Infant - 12th grade

Register Kids Today

Registration is for so much more than Sunday School. It gives the best contact if you have to step away from the building. It gives an address for birthday cards. It gives you information on upcoming events. For youth, it is the first step to off-site adventures. Since our worship is streamed to YouTube, it also gives permission for your child to sing in the choir, help acolyte, and volunteer for special activities. If you are the grown-up in charge of an infant through 12th grade attendee of nursery, Glory time, worship, choir, youth group, special activity days, or Sunday classes then please sign up today. If you are a grandparent or guardian who is volunteering for the responsibility in the child's church attendance and you want to be up to date on communication, please include your preferred contact on the form in addition or in lieu of the parents. Printed forms are available in the narthex as well as the classrooms.



Unite together on September 17 at 11 AM

Unite is a small group for parents of KirkWood Kids. They will begin meeting monthly on September 17th in the fellowship hall during Sunday School hour. This is a time for discussion and fellowship.

If your kids are grown or far away, support these family faith builders by volunteering in the nursery and children's classes.

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