

KirkWood Kronicle

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

SEPTEMBER 2024



As we near the end of our summer Q&A Sunday series, I'm reminded of the tightrope that is being a "purple" church. (If you're not familiar with that turn of phrase, it means a diverse, blended church, comprised of folks who differ theologically and politically.) It can be simultaneously exhilarating and scary.

Perhaps this is the perfect time to share the bulk of an article published in the Presbyterian Outlook back in January of this year that was penned by its chief editor, Rev. Teri McDowell Ott, entitled

"Purple Church Possibilities." In it, she touches on the reality of conflict, the need for dissonance, and the role that both leaders and the entire congregation need to play.

Enjoy – and may her insight help ground and unify us here at KirkWood!

Rev. McDowell Ott writes:

Those serving "purple" churches today are doing so in an especially volatile political climate. As Rev. Tom Long recently wrote in a recent article, preachers are getting sharply attacked at the church door just for quoting Scripture like "love your enemies" or "blessed are the merciful." Purple churches, with a mix of red Republicans and blue Democrats, are ripe for conflict. But I believe they are also places of promise and possibility. Besides faith communities, where else in our society do people of diverse political perspectives voluntarily gather?

Ronald Heifetz and Marty Linsky, from the Harvard Kennedy School, teach people and organizations how to address "adaptive" challenges — complicated issues that involve competing values, beliefs, and loyalties, and that stir intense emotions. For example, a church with diminishing membership saddled with expensive-to-maintain facilities faces



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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

an adaptive challenge, sure to surface different ideas, beliefs and values about the faithful path forward.

No matter the adaptive challenge, progress cannot be made if leaders are conflict-averse. Comfort maintains the status quo, keeping us on the superficial surface of challenges that require a deeper dive. Like composers who apply notes of discord and dissonance to add depth and forward motion to music, Heifetz and Linsky advise leaders to surface and manage conflict as an essential resource in an organization's progression on adaptive challenges.

To all the pastors and people in leadership positions who feel the stress of serving as the orchestra's conductor of dissonance, take heart. Heifetz and Linsky also say adaptive challenges cannot be tackled alone. Leadership in the organization must be exercised by more than the "designated leader." Pastors can strike a note of dissonance in the pulpit through a prophetic word that gets a congregation talking about an issue they've been too afraid to tackle. Sessions and small groups can acknowledge conflicting ideas and values, then bring people from both sides together to come up with ideas on which both can agree. Everyone can help regulate the temperature of conflict, making sure it's in the productive, not destructive, zone.

This is hard, stressful work. But when did Jesus ever lead us down the path of easy? I love the church. And I believe in the power of Christ's body to transform. Churches willing to embrace their notes of discord and dissonance will add depth and forward motion to their ministry — an orchestration of divine harmony that's not easy, but more than worthwhile.





Blessed are all
 who fear the Lord,
 who walk in
 obedience to him.
 You will eat the
 fruit of your labor;
 blessings and
 prosperity will be
 yours.

Psalms 128: 1-2



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- September 10th - Rock Painting for Pumpkin Patch at 1:00PM
- September 14th – Walking Group at 9:00AM
- September 14th - Dining Partners at 6:00AM
- September 15th - Christmas Cantata Kickoff at 6:00PM - Sanctuary
- September 20th-22nd – Women's Retreat
- September 22nd – First Day of Autumn
- September 22nd - October Kronicle Deadline
- September 23rd - Pumpkin Patch Light Set Up at 9:00AM
- September 24th - Pumpkin Patch Pallets Set Up at 6:30PM
- September 28th – Pumpkin Delivery at 9:00AM

Congregational Care Update

Congregational Care

KirkWood Dining Partners: We are kicking off the fall season at Mama Rosa's in Phoebus. We will gather there on Saturday, September 14th at 6:00PM. Mama Rosa's is located at 617 E. Mercury Blvd on the corner of Mercury and N. Mallory Street. Please be at the church at 5:30PM to carpool or ride the van. 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.

Other Upcoming Events:

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&G 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 (threeexys@gmail.com)

Dates and locations for additional Dining Partner events:

October 12, 2024, Sate, City Center, NN, 6:00PM

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, Kephi 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.

Congregational Care Update

Congregational Care

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

KirkWood Walking Group Returns for Another Season

The KirkWood Walking Group will be returning for another season of hiking in the great outdoors. This first gathering will be at the Knight's home on Saturday September 14th at 9:00AM, where we can offer 1, 2 and 4 mile loops scaling the mighty peaks of Poquoson. Expect daring elevation gains of up to 4 feet. Following the walks, everyone is invited for coffee, beverages, and snacks at the Knight's house where we will plan together our different walks for the season.

Please join us at the home of Janet and Bruce Knight - 120 Laydon Way in Poquoson. Come join the fun and fellowship as we take in God's beauty and fun while getting some exercise while talking to friends. If you have any questions, contact Janet Knight or Bruce Knight (757) 303-4252.

KirkWood Silver Starts Back Up!

Congregational Care

KirkWood Silver Plans for the Fall

It's football season and KICK-OFF time for KirkWood Silver! We will kick off the '24-'25 season on Thursday, September 19th, at 11:30AM, in the Fellowship Hall for lunch and a special Q and A session with our pastor. Pastor Shearer will field questions from anyone on any topic! Lunch will be Carolina style barbecue, slaw, and chips. We would welcome cookies or brownies from several of you. The cost of the luncheon will be \$7, payable at the luncheon. Sign up in the Narthex September 1st through September 15th. Contact Wanda or Jim Birch at (757)868-8651 or wandjbirch@verizon.net if you need further info! Bring someone new to KWS!

Future events aren't firmed up yet but include:

October 17th - Miniature Golf at Play-A-Round on Route 17 in Grafton.

November - date TBD - Stage performance of "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang", by The Williamsburg Players.

December 12th - A Christmas celebration in the Fellowship Hall: Olive Garden Soup Lunch-
e followed by the Christmas movie, "Miracle on Thirty-fourth

From a KirkWood Kitchen...

Congregational Care

This month's tasty treat comes from Laura Sanders. Laura is a kindergarten teacher at Marshall Early Learning Center in Newport News. Her kind heart, fun spirit, and endless patience make her perfect for this role. She loves the hiking, boating, and spending time with family & friends outdoors. On Sundays, you can often find Laura serving as an usher and usually sitting on the left hand side. Don and Elizabeth Nelson get the credit for bringing this fun-loving and compassionate woman to KirkWood.

Now for her recipe, which Laura says comes from her cousin Sue in Massachusetts.

YumSetta

- 1 pound of ground beef
- ¼ cup of green pepper (optional)
- ¼ cup of onion (optional)
- 3 tablespoons of brown sugar
- 8 ounces of noodles, cooked
- 1 can cream of mushroom
- 1 can tomato soup
- 4 ounces Velveeta cheese, sliced

Preheat oven to 400*. Bring a pot of water to boil to cook noodles.

Fry ground beef in large saucepan, adding diced pepper and chopped onion until onion is tender. Drain grease. Add tomato soup and brown sugar. Continue cooking until heated.

Cook noodles according to package directions. Drain. Combine with can cream of mushroom soup.

Place ground beef mixture in casserole dish. Cover with slices of Velveeta cheese. Spread noodle mixture over top. Add a few more chunks of Velveeta to the top.

Bake uncovered 20 minutes. Serve hot.

Serving Local Missions...Bag It!

Missions

Grocery Bags for THRIVE - KirkWood is a partner church with THRIVE, which involves both a financial commitment and volunteer hours. THRIVE is a non-profit organization that is committed to assisting Virginia Peninsula individuals and families through difficult times by addressing essential living needs such as food, housing and financial counseling.

One of the many ways KirkWood supports THRIVE is by donating plastic grocery bags that are used in The Market at THRIVE at the Nettles Drive location. You can help by bringing doubled rolled plastic grocery bags to church and leaving them in the donation container. We will be moving the donation container to the Fellowship Hall in the near future, so look for it there. Please contact Connie Barlow (757) 876-4791 or Cindy Williamson (757) 344-5577 with any questions.

Use this link to view a video on how to roll grocery bags on the THRIVE website. Scroll down the page to find the video. <https://www.thrivepeninsula.org/groups>



Sixth graders in Kathryn Kelchner's science class were learning about plastic in the ocean and helped out by rolling bags for THRIVE last June.

The Pumpkins are Coming!

Missions

Happy September! It's the beginning of the fall season, the start of pumpkin patch preparation, and the anticipation of the first delivery of pumpkins!

Our Pumpkin Patch is an exciting and fun-filled time with lots of different ways to volunteer and/or help in the many "behind-the-scenes" activities that are vital to the success of our patch.

September 10 th at 1:00PM	Come join us in the Fellowship Hall to paint and decorate rocks. These will be hidden in the patch for visitors to find and enjoy.
September 23 rd at 9:00AM	Patch lights set up.
September 24 th at 6:30PM	The pallets will be brought out and arranged in rows, (with the help of the Boy Scouts).
September 28 th at 9:00AM	First pumpkin offload. Candy donations (please no chocolate) for both the patch and Pumpkin Palooza. Please place them directly in the bin in the narthex.
September 15 th in the bulletin	Sign-Up Genius link in the bulletin on. This is where you can pick one, or many, shifts to help sell the pumpkins or volunteer as an end of the day counter from September 28 th - October 31 st .

There's a Place for You in Missions

Missions

The August Red Cross Blood Drive was held on Thursday, August 15th. During the drive we collected 44 units of blood! A huge thanks to the members of Kirkwood as well as the community for coming out. A baked potato bar was served to everyone present. Thank you to all that contribute food, money, and time to this mission. We could not do it without you.

DATE CHANGE: Our final 2024 dates is THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14th from 1:00-6:00PM in the fellowship hall. PLEASE NOTE THE DATE CHANGE. The Red Cross had a conflict on the originally scheduled date, so asked that we move our drive up a week. 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.

We would like to thank everyone who continues to support The KirkWood Kupboard, St. Luke's Food Pantry, and the Peninsula Food Bank. We collected many wonderful items during our food collection drive on August 17th. Our point of contact for all things food pantry-related is Catherine Gough at cgough1965@gmail.com . If you are interested in opportunities to help serve in this ministry, she welcomes questions and would be happy to chat with you. Plus, you get to work alongside a great group of people who have some wonderful experiences to share!

Our next meeting is September 3rd at 6:30PM.

Ideas for Prayer

Stewardship

When was the last time you
prayed?

It's about time you did.
And...

Don't. Stop. Praying.

On the next page is a month of
ideas to get you started.

prayer / prair / *noun* • **1a(1)** an address
(such as a petition) to God in word or
thought • **1a(2)** a set order of words
used in praying • **1b** an earnest request
or wish



SEPT 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
Birthdays of all your friends and relatives.	Visitors to feel welcomed and loved by all.	Kirkwood's volunteers for all the events we do.	Tim's humbleness in cleaning up our messes.	Safety for all who have returned to school.	The safety of American's celebrating all over the world.	Power to forgive someone today.
08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Equal rights for everyone!	The financial prosperity of KirkWood.	Ask God to suggest someone in the church, to pray for their needs.	Ann's choir directing for clarity and harmony.	The choir's dedication and praise to God.	God to help you make a new friend at KirkWood.	Chris' sermons: they are God inspired and timely.
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Katie's love of babies and their growth.	Thank the Lord for the foods we eat.	Session members as they guide the church.	Missions committee as they fulfil the Great Commission.	The KirkWood garden to grow.	Fighting in the world, America, and our towns.	The health and safety of all who come to KirkWood.
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Jeannine's leadership of the children to the Lord.	The stability of marriages of everyone you know.	The physical grounds of KirkWood.	A text to someone who needs encouragement.	Trust in God with my life.	ALL the people in your life who you love.	A welcome hand to greet new visitors
29	30					
The safety of our youth and their leaders.	God grow our faith through our core values					

Questions & Answers for Fall Youth Programs

Christian Education

Whether you are a veteran KirkWood attendee or visiting for the first time there are always questions for the new Sunday school year. Please contact Jeannine Scott (children through 5th grade) or Rachel Fisher (6th-12th grade) or members of the Christian Education committee if your answer is not provided in the following samples.

Q: How can my child best participate in worship?

A: Attending worship (for part or all) allows everyone to experience God together within an intergenerational setting. Joyful Noise children's choir begins at age 4. Those 2nd grade and younger may choose to participate in Glory time (children's worship). Serving as an acolyte starts at 3rd grade. KirkWood provides many options to best suit the needs of

Q: Where and when does my child go to Sunday School?

A: Sunday School classes are at 11AM starting on September 15th.

Upstairs:

3 years old-5th grade in Room 11
Grades 6-12th in Room 8

Nursery is also available.

Q: How can I help promote the children and youth ministry programs?

A: Don't hesitate! Call Jeannine or Rachel. We need teachers and substitutes, snack donations, field trip drivers, birthday recognizers, prayer warriors... and so much more. Support all the programs by attending the Christian Education Committee meetings at 7:00PM on the first Tuesday of each month.

Class Changes for Adults

Christian Education

In Case you missed it, on August 11th, Pastor Chris Shearer and Elder Christine Pregler (CE Chair) announced some changes will be coming to the 11:00AM Sunday School hour for KirkWood's Adults!

This past Spring, KirkWood took a long look at what makes us KW and what we believe. What are the values that make us KirkWood? Three of our Core Values are at the heart of the CE mission. Core Value 1 - Prayer and Worship, Core Value 2 - We are Family, and Core Value 3 - Spiritual Growth.

Specifically, these core values challenge us to come together as a community following Jesus together, learning and growing together, supporting and sustaining each other through life's joys and challenges. Our Core values call us to draw spiritual nourishment from a common source and to foster spiritual growth through scripture, study, and practice so that we will grow in our love for God and those around us.

Through our Small Groups, Bible Studies and Sunday School classes we are bringing these core values to our KirkWood community.

Someone once said to me that they didn't read the Bible because it didn't tell a story that related to them. While I wondered how that could be, as a librarian, I know that not every story speaks to people in the same way. That is why CE's primary mission is how we can make the stories of the Bible - windows, mirrors, and doors. Windows: How can help our KW community see the stories in the Bible in a way they may never have seen before? Mirrors: How can we help them see themselves in the stories in the Bible? and Doors: How can these same Bible stories be a door that they can walk through that will change their lives? All of us come to our understanding of the Bible in different ways and we all have a different relationship with God. It is what makes us who we are, it is how our Faith Journey changes and grows, and it is what makes our KW community stronger when we are together.

Class Changes for Adults

Christian Education

What does this have to do with our Sunday School groups? At 8:30AM we will continue our Follow Me PCUSA curriculum, as will the children and the youth. However, at the 11:00AM block we will be offering several class options. In addition to the Birches' Bible study group, we will be offering two concurrent sessions every Sunday at 11:00AM. These two sessions will be on 2 different subjects and are completely elective. They will run for a month to six weeks in length. There are no sign ups. Come for 1 week, come for 6. Both classes are meant to meet you where you are.

9/15-10/20 (6 Sundays)		
	Class 1	Class 2
Topics	PCUSA - Follow Me Curriculum	Being Christians in a Polarized
Week 1 9/15	Live Like a Disciple (Matthew 28:19-20)	How the New Testament church addressed the severe polarization in its own communities?
Week 2 9/22	Go (Acts 1:6-8)	Generational differences - Are we even speaking the same language?
Week 3 9/22	Be a Witness (1 John 1:1-3)	How can MLK's sermon "Love Your Enemies" in 1957 help us love those we don't agree with today?
Week 4 10/6	Baptize (1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Colossians	Our culture of anger and outrage. Can we take a breath and find any common ground?
Week 5 10/13	Teach and Learn About Jesus (2 Timothy 3:16-17)	Political polarization in the church. This is nothing new!
Week 6 10/20	Trust in Jesus' Presence Always (John 15:1-17)	How to have a productive conversation on a hard or touchy topic? Practical How to Tips and Suggestions.

Only 101 Days Until Christmas!

Worship

That headline likely either excited you or put dread into your “list checking off” brain. It’s actually 101 days between September 15th and Christmas. Why count from that date? September 15th is the kickoff for the Christmas Cantata. So if you were excited, come join fellow KirkWoodians as they prepare through the fall for our annual Cantata celebration. What better way to get in the spirit...all fall long! If your first response was dread, why not join the Cantata Choir to help jump start your holiday preparations and begin moving things from *to do* to *done*!

The Christmas Cantata is a perfect opportunity for anyone who has been considering singing during worship, but didn’t want to make a long term commitment.

The kick off is September 15th at 6:00PM. The evening will include dessert, a chance to look at the music, and then an opportunity to hear what it will sound like. Coming to the kick off is not a commitment to participate. Everyone is invited to come and see if they might want to join this group that helps make our Christmas celebration complete! No need to sign up in advance, just come on the 15th and see if it’s right for you!

