

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## All In: Living Generously, Serving Boldly, Stewardship 2026

We invite you to be All In: Living Generously, Serving Boldly and to take a few moments to prayerfully consider what being "All In" looks like for you in 2026. Please join the 234 households that have already committed to supporting First Pres in 2026. Your pledge—no matter the size—helps us plan boldly for the ministry and mission we share.

**Make your 2026 pledge today at <https://www.kirkwoodpres.org/pledge-form>.**

## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF KIRKWOOD

**SUNDAY, February 22, 2026  
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE 10AM SERVICE**

**IN FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**By order of the Session  
Thomas E. Edelstein  
Clerk of Session**

The annual report is available for viewing on our website at  
[www.kirkwoodpres.org/important-documents](https://www.kirkwoodpres.org/important-documents)

## Office Closed for Presidents' Day

The church office will be closed on Monday, February 16, in observance of Presidents' Day. We will reopen with regular hours on Tuesday.  
We wish you a safe and restful holiday.

## Ash Wednesday Worship

**This Wednesday, February 18th, 2026 at 12 PM and 6 PM**

Join us for Ash Wednesday worship as we begin the season of Lent together with prayer, reflection, and the imposition of ashes.

**In Honor of Black History Month**

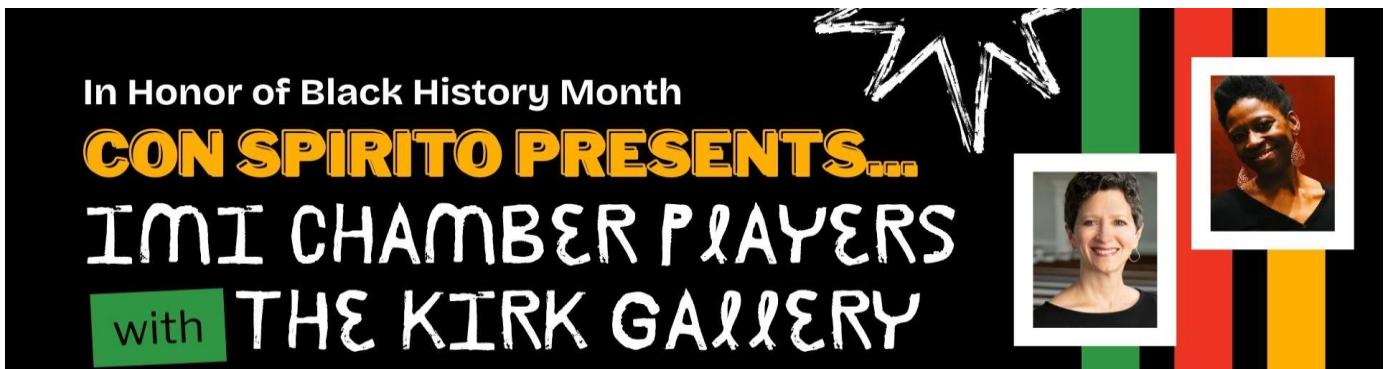
**CON SPIRITO PRESENTS...**

**IMI CHAMBER PLAYERS**

**with THE KIRK GALLERY**

**TODAY, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM**

Join the IMI Chamber Players for a vibrant celebration of music by Black composers! Following the concert the Kirk Gallery will present art from local black artists.



# Family Activities at First Pres



## FAMILY OLYMPIC GAMES SUNDAY, FEB. 22ND, 3-4:30 PM

**Join us for FREE family fun!  
Games for each age group  
from elementary to retired!**

**RSVP to Rob at  
[rmonroe@kirkwoodpres.org](mailto:rmonroe@kirkwoodpres.org)  
for snack count.**

### A Lenten Water Challenge: Living Generously, Serving Boldly

- Rev'd Gary Noonan invites us to a simple and meaningful Lenten practice: for the 40 days of Lent, consider drinking only clean tap water and donating the money you would normally spend on other beverages to support the building of clean water wells in Africa through our mission partner, **Marion Medical Mission**.
- Skipping the morning coffee run, the drink with a drive-through meal, or an evening adult beverage can help us become more mindful of how much we spend on beverages—and how blessed we are to have access to clean water. This practice invites us to stand in solidarity with communities who do not share that same access and to support faithful partners working to provide life-giving water for all of God's children.
- **Contributions may be placed in the water jug located in the Gathering Space.** Thank you for joining in this Lenten act of care and compassion.

### Lenten Recital Series

Our Lenten Chapel Series begins on Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>  
with a program by Chamber Project St. Louis.

Join us each Friday in Lent for these 30 minute meditative recitals  
at noon in our Tree of Life Chapel

### New Member Class

Are you interested in becoming a member of First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood? Our next class of new members will join the church on Palm Sunday, March 29! To join, please RSVP for and attend one of the new member classes we will be offering this spring:

- Sunday, March 8 @ 10 am

To RSVP for a new member class, please use the signup genius QR code. If you would like to join and none of these times work for you, please email Rachel at [rfinken@kirkwoodpres.org](mailto:rfinken@kirkwoodpres.org).



### Flu & COVID Tests Available

To help us care for one another, free flu and COVID tests are available to take as needed at the Welcome Desk. Thank you for helping keep our community healthy and looking out for one another.

## Buildings and Ground Committee Needs

The Buildings and Grounds Committee is looking for a couple items, and we hope you can help. We could use a cordless drill (the church currently doesn't have one) and a portable tool storage cabinet with drawers (tools are piling up on the floor in the Business Manager office). If you are doing spring cleaning or planning a move and have an extra of either of these items, we would be extremely interested in them. Contact Bill Larson [blarson@kirkwoodpres.org](mailto:blarson@kirkwoodpres.org) 314-965-0326 and we'll be happy to pick them up.

## Coming Soon: A New Way to Connect and Give at First Pres

We're excited to share that we'll soon be launching Realm, a new online giving and community platform that will replace our current Shelby system.

Realm is designed to make staying connected to First Pres simpler, more secure, and more personal. You'll have greater control over your personal information, easy and flexible giving options, and a clearer way to stay connected with the people, groups, and ministries that matter most to you—all in one place. You don't need to do anything yet, this is simply a heads up.

More details, guidance, and next steps will be shared soon.



## Lenten Book Study: Why Did Jesus Have to Die?

Please join Pastors Gary and Rachel for a Lenten book study where we will read and discuss Adam Hamilton's book, *Why Did Jesus Have to Die?* In this study we will explore the different ways Christians understand the meaning of Christ's death on the cross. If you are interested, please RSVP for the class and purchase a copy of the book by using the QR codes.

This will be a six-week series beginning on Wednesday, February 25 and concluding on Wednesday April 1. You can choose to attend the daytime session (Wednesdays from 1-2 pm) or the evening session (Wednesdays from 6-7 pm).

For questions, please reach out to Rachel at [rfinken@kirkwoodpres.org](mailto:rfinken@kirkwoodpres.org).



## You're Invited: International Women's Day Coffee Gathering!



Please join us for an informal gathering of the ladies of First Pres on Sunday, March 8, from 10:00 to 10:50 am in the Fireplace Room. We will have coffee, light refreshments, and time for fellowship. Rachel will offer brief remarks at 10:30 and we will take a group photo at 10:40! Please join us as we get to know one another and scheme about women's ministries at the church! If you have questions, you can contact Lucy Tidwell 913-486-7129, Cynthia LeFort 314-402-1096, or Heidi Meckes 314-603-5749. Don't forget the time change that day, and we hope to see you there!

## Stephen Frei Studio Tour

Stephen Frei has given us 2 dates for touring their studio: Friday, February 20th at 9:30 am (with workers present) and Saturday, February 21st at 9:30 am (no workers present). We will need to park at the church and carpool to the event since there is limited parking. Please RSVP to Jeanne by email @ [Jeanneearley05@gmail.com](mailto:Jeanneearley05@gmail.com) or by phone 314-707-3429.

## Christian Concerns

Sundays from 9:30-10:30 a.m. in Room 009 or on Zoom. Contact [ann.willie@hotmail.com](mailto:ann.willie@hotmail.com)

- 2-22-26: CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND NO CHRISTIAN CONCERNS CLASS
- 3-1-26: John Hendrix with the Carver Project
- 3-8-26: Journey for Social Justice Part 2

## Book Clubs

- **Tuesday Book Club:** All are welcome to join our discussions each Tuesday from 10:00-11:00 AM in the Fireplace Room. We will begin discussions on February 17 of *AGE OF REVOLUTIONS: PROGRESS AND BACKLASH FROM 1600 TO THE PRESENT*, by Fareed Zakaria. In March we will be discussing *THE ROAD TO WISDOM: ON TRUTH, SCIENCE, FAITH AND TRUST*, by Francis S. Collins. Contact: [kochkarenp@gmail.com](mailto:kochkarenp@gmail.com).
- **Wednesday Book Club:** The next Wednesday book club is February 25 at 1:30 in the fireplace room and over zoom. We will be discussing *How to Read a Book* by Monica Woods. An uplifting novel about a chance encounter at a bookstore, exploring redemption, unlikely friendships, and the life-changing power of sharing stories. Contact [julia@abreu.net](mailto:julia@abreu.net) for more information.
- **History Book Club:** We will hold our next meeting on Thursday, February 26 at 10:30am in Room 29. We will be discussing *History Matters* by David McCullough, a posthumous collection of essays by the best-selling author and Pulitzer Prize winning historian. All are welcome. Contact [gornatir@yahoo.com](mailto:gornatir@yahoo.com) with any questions.
- **Sarah's Circle:** We are reading *Conquering Fear: Living Boldly in an Uncertain World* by Harold Kushner. We meet on the second Monday of the month at 2:00 pm in the Fireplace Room. If you are interested, please contact Jane Paniello at [jgpaniello@charter.net](mailto:jgpaniello@charter.net) or Ellen Wood at [wood.ellen.g@gmail.com](mailto:wood.ellen.g@gmail.com)

## Childcare Offered During Worship

We offer childcare from 9:05 a.m. through the end of the 11:00 a.m. service (including during the 10:00 a.m. education hour) for ages birth through preschool in room 131 right next to Fellowship Hall!

## Activity Bags & Children's Bulletins

Activity Bags & Children's Bulletins are available for kids in both services. For 9:05 a.m., bags and bulletins are on a table outside the Fellowship Hall doors. For 11:00 a.m., bags and bulletins are on a table in the Narthex, at the rear of the Sanctuary. Bags are refreshed weekly to provide fun & engaging activities that reflect the lectionary lessons.

## Space for Nursing Mothers

We want everyone to feel welcome and included at church! If you are nursing a baby and would like a private space to feed your baby while you are here, please feel free to use the women's restroom in the staff offices on the second floor. The room can be locked and has a comfortable chair, changing table, outlet, and small table for your use.

## Give Online

Give online with a onetime gift, or set up reoccurring payments and pay with ACH directly from your checking account, via credit card, or using GooglePay. Go to <https://www.shelbygiving.com/app/giving/kirkwoodpres> and follow the prompts, text GIVE to 314-293-4922, or scan the QR code to go directly our giving portal. Questions? Reach out to [accounting@kirkwoodpres.org](mailto:accounting@kirkwoodpres.org).

