

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAYS IN AUGUST

8:30 A.M.
ARISE!
Contemporary Worship
Tree of Life Chapel

10:00 A.M.
TRADITIONAL WORSHIP
Sanctuary

CRITICAL NEED: BLOOD DRIVE

The Deacons at First Presbyterian Church Kirkwood are sponsoring a summer Community Red Cross Blood Drive this year. It will be on **Monday afternoon, August 24, 2026, from 1-6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall** at the church.

Appointments can be made online by visiting RedCrossBlood.org and entering FirstPresKirkwood or calling 1-800-Red Cross (1-800-733-2767). You can also sign up on the Red Cross App. Walk-ins are accepted, but those with appointments will be taken first. You can streamline your donation experience by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass.

There currently is a truly critical need for blood. Blood donations in our area dropped 25% in June. Donors will receive a \$20 e-gift card as a thank you. Please consider giving this gift of life and letting friends/family know about the need to help replete blood stores in our community. **There will be sign-ups for the blood drive TODAY after each service in the Gathering Space.**

JOIN US FOR BLUEGRASS ON THE LAWN THIS SATURDAY

Join us for Bluegrass on the Lawn **THIS COMING Saturday, August 29 at 6 p.m.**, featuring Barnum Jack, a five-piece ensemble that honors the roots of traditional bluegrass while bringing a fresh, modern energy to the music. Bring a chair or blanket, pack your favorite snacks and drinks, and settle in for a magical evening of live music in the courtyard. Wine is welcome; please leave beer and liquor at home. And if the weather doesn't cooperate, the music will go on! Bring your chairs and join us indoors in Fellowship Hall. Invite someone you love, pack a little picnic, and come spend a beautiful late-summer evening with us.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS ON AUGUST 30



Join us for worship on Sunday, August 30, for our annual Blessing of the Backpacks! During both worship services, we'll offer a special blessing for students, teachers, school staff, and everyone beginning a new season of learning. All ages are welcome! Bring your backpack, school bag, or teacher tote as we surround our students and educators with prayer, encouragement, and the love of their church community. A new school year brings new classrooms, new challenges, new

possibilities, and a reminder that wherever we go, God goes with us.

SUMMER CHOIR

Summer Choir will sing next week. All are welcome to participate in Summer Choir! We will rehearse a simple anthem in the Choir Room at 9:00 am and sing the service at 10:00. It's the perfect way to give Chancel Choir a 'test drive' before Fall rehearsals begin, or simply to sing with a great group of folks! If you have any questions, please contact Bill Stein. All are welcome!

ADULT WORK WEEK

We are pleased to announce that members of First Pres will participate in an Adult Work Week at the PDA facility in Ferncliff, Arkansas October 25–30, 2026. We have room for up to 25 people and would love to have folks join us for a week of fellowship and service. For more information about the Ferncliff Experience, please go to ferncliff.org/outreach/mission. **There will be an informational meeting on August 30; 9:15 a.m. in the Fireplace Room for any interested volunteers.** For more information about joining the Volunteer group, please contact Liz McCane (314-960-3677), Ann Roussel (401-829-8890), or Georgina Sikorski (678-644-2782).

INTERESTED IN JOINING FIRST PRESBYTERIAN OF KIRKWOOD?

To join the church, you'll need to do a few things:

- Attend one 45-minute new member class at the church
- Fill out a few forms
- Attend worship on a designated date where you will be officially welcomed as a new member

Our next group of new members will join the church on the first Sunday of Advent, November 29! Four new member classes are offered in advance of joining– you only need to attend one:

- Sunday, September 20, 10 am
- Wednesday, October 21, 6 pm
- Wednesday, November 4, 6 pm
- Sunday, November 8, 10 am

If you have questions, or would like to join but have scheduling conflicts, please reach out to Pastor Rachel at rfinken@kirkwoodpres.org.

SUNDAY MORNING GREETERS

We are looking for greeters for the upcoming semester! Slots are available for both services at the Circle Desk and before the 11 o'clock service at the parking lot doors. The only requirement is a smiling face, and willingness to answer questions or lend a hand. Please use this link to register for 9/13–12/27!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0444A9A82FA2F8CE9-64845236-sunday>



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP: WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

The Grief Support Group can companion you through your loss. We meet on the **fourth Monday of each month from 1:30 to 3:00 pm in the Fireplace Room**. The next meeting is Monday, August 24th. We also meet for a social time together on the second Monday of each month from 1:30 to 3:00 pm at The Daily Bread Bakery and Cafe in Des Peres. We are "A safe harbor where hurting people can pull in, anchor while the wind still blows them around, and search for safe ground on which to go on living."

(Allen Wolfelt from *Understanding Your Grief*).

For questions, reach out to Ellen Welsh Dabler (Ln4cats@gmail.com).

NEW ADULT CLASS THIS FALL: FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP

Stop by for coffee and conversation this fall. **Beginning September 20, Faith & Fellowship will offer a relaxed Sunday morning space for adults to connect, ask honest questions, and explore how faith shapes our daily lives.**

This class is especially convenient for parents of Sunday School kids and any adults at church between worship services. Come grab a cup of coffee, settle in, and join the conversation. We may leave with more questions than we started with, but we will build each other up in community along the way.

Our first series, "Tackling the Tough Questions: Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?," will be a 5-week exploration of the Book of Job, September 20– October 25 (no class October 11 due to food packing event). Class meets in the fireplace from 10–10:45 am. We hope you will join us!!

GET READY FOR GREENTREE 2026



The Greentree Festival is happening from Friday, September 18, to Sunday, September 20. First Pres will again be staffing our Cooling Station booth, at booth #8 along the Main Walk in Kirkwood Park. We will be selling bags of ice to food vendors and bottles of cold water to passersby. We need volunteers to staff our booth. If you're able to help, please use this SignUp Genius link and sign up for a shift! Your help is much appreciated. <https://bit.ly/greentree2026>

THANK YOU TO TWO OF OUR YOUTH

First Pres has recently benefitted from the work two of our youths have done on their way to becoming Eagle scouts. For their Eagle scout projects, this Spring, Rowan Sevem designed and built much needed shelving for our Preschool supplies. This summer, Weston Sevem constructed a food pantry expanding our ability to serve the needs of our community. We are proud of the work of these young men and deeply appreciative.

With the expanded food pantry capacity we are planning to offer individually packaged personal care items in addition to food items. Our current supplies are low, so please consider contributing to the pantries. Donations may be left at the circle desk just inside the Jefferson Ave entrance.

Items most needed include:

- canned foods with pull top lids (NOT cans that you need a can opener)
- canned tuna and chicken
- soup, chili, or ravioli
- beef jerky
- crackers
- peanut butter
- granola bars
- trail mix
- fruit cups



SAVE THE DATE FOR FIRST FAIR: **A SHOWCASE OF FIRST PRES MINISTRIES**

Join us on Sunday, September 13, at 10:00 a.m. in the Gathering Space for First Fair!

Come discover the many ways to **learn, connect, serve, and grow** at First Pres. Meet the people behind our ministries and groups, explore opportunities for education and fellowship, find meaningful ways to volunteer, and discover where your interests and gifts might lead you.

Whether you're new to First Pres or have been part of our church family for years, there may be something new waiting for you! Stay tuned for more details...but for now, mark your calendar!

CHILDREN'S CENTER PLAYGROUND

This week Rhein Dabler, Frank Darr, Paul Nesvig, Dan Meckes, Aidan Beidle and Bill Larson added a fresh batch of wood chips to the Children's Center playground in preparation for the new school year. We lucked out with weather and were able to knock out the project in about 40 minutes.

A big thanks to a great crew!



BEFORE



AFTER

BOOK CLUBS

- **Wednesday Book Club:** The Wednesday Book Club will meet on **August 26 at 1:30 p.m.** in the Fireplace Room and over Zoom. For more information, contact julia@abreu.net.
- **Tuesday Book Club:** The Tuesday Book Club will resume weekly meetings on Tuesday, September 8 at 10 AM in the Fireplace Room. All are welcome. Our first book will be *THE SUM OF US: What Racism costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together*, by Heather McGhee. The book after that will be *MINISTRY FOR THE FUTURE: A Novel*, by Kim Stanley Robinson. For more information, contact kochkarenp@gmail.com.

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://onrealm.org/kirkwoodpres/-/form/give/now> and foll the prompts, text "GIVEFPCK" to 73256, or scan the QR code to go directly our giving portal. Questions? Reach out to accounting@kirkwoodpres.org

