

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Please use this link (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054BAEAB2DA7FCC16-65383871-fall>) or the QR code to sign up to attend a new member class. If you have questions, or would like to join but have scheduling conflicts, please reach out to Pastor Rachel at rfinken@kirkwoodpres.org.

FIRST PRES LIBRARY OPENING ON SEPTEMBER 13

Please stop by the Church Library for our Grand Opening **TODAY!** Feel free to stop by anytime between 9:45 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. We will have balloons, books, Bingo, and a chance to win a gift card from Novel Neighbor! See you there!

FIRST FAIR: A SHOWCASE OF FIRST PRES MINISTRIES

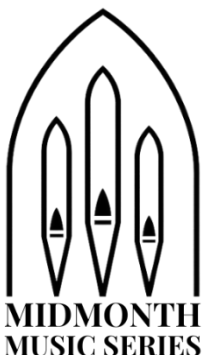
Join us TODAY, at 10:00 a.m. in the Gathering Space for First Fair!

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!

September Midmonth Concert

Join us this Wednesday, September 16, at 12:15 p.m. for a special lunchtime recital by Spencer Smith, Minister of Music and Arts ministry at Second Presbyterian Church. Whether you are a devoted lover of organ music or simply curious to experience the power and beauty of our magnificent Casavant pipe organ, this free recital offers a wonderful opportunity to pause, breathe, and enjoy exceptional music in the peaceful setting of our Sanctuary. Come experience an extraordinary musician and a magnificent instrument—right here at First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood. The recital is free and lasts approximately 30 minutes. Can't attend in person? Watch the livestream on our YouTube channel at youtube.com/@FPCKirkwood/streams.



FOCUS GROUPS: HELP SHAPE OUR FUTURE

First Pres is working with Klote & Associates on a feasibility study as we consider how to sustain our ministries, address operating and future building costs, and respond faithfully to new opportunities. Your voice is an important part of this process. Each focus group will include a brief presentation, time for questions, and a short questionnaire. Meetings will be held in the Chapel unless otherwise noted.

Choose the time that works best for you:

- **Sundays, Sept. 20 & 27 and Oct. 4 & 11:** 10:10 a.m. or 12:15 p.m.
- **Tuesday, Sept. 22:** 7 p.m.
- **Thursday, Sept. 24:** 6 p.m.
- **Wednesday, Sept. 30:** 7:15 p.m.
- **Thursday, Oct. 1:** 7 p.m.
- **Tuesday, Oct. 6:** 11:15 a.m.
- **Thursday, Oct. 8:** Time TBD

Please join us as we listen, discern, and consider where God may be leading our congregation next.

CHANCEL CHOIR AND CHANCEL RINGERS

Chancel Choir and Chancel Ringers began their new seasons last week! It is not too late to join either group. Both Choir and Ringers are not just places to make music, they are ripe with fellowship, community, care, and fun! If you are interested or would like more information on either of these choirs, please contact Bill Stein at bstein@kirkwoodpres.org. Help us make a joyful noise to the Lord!

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!!

Save the Date: Blessing of the Animals

Please bring your animal friends and **join us for a Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, October 3rd at 10 a.m. in the church parking lot** as we ask for God's blessings on the animals who enrich our lives. Please make sure your pet is leashed or in a crate so that all of our furry friends stay safe! If your pet does not travel well or is recently deceased, you are welcome to bring a photo. We will offer a short service and then pastors will offer individual blessings for pets.

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>

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: MEAL TRAIN FOR CAROL KNOX AND JOHN HILL



Carol Knox and John Hill have been enduring many challenges lately, from the loss of Carol's son to ongoing health challenges with both Carol and John. To support them in this time of need, our church family would like to set up meals for a couple weeks after Carol's family leaves so that they are supported for dinners. Please use the QR code or this link (<https://mealtrain.com/z6v746>) to sign up for a day to deliver meals, beginning next week. Please contact Rachel at rfinken@kirkwoodpres.org with questions.

HELP FILL OUR LITTLE FREE PANTRIES

We need more food donations for our Little Free Pantries.

The greatest needs are:

- 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

Please drop off any items at the Welcome Desk.

THREADS OF KINDNESS

Come enjoy friendship and kindness over a fondness for fiber arts.

- Advance your fiber arts skills. We have experienced knitters and crocheters to share information with you.
- Rejuvenate a project on hold (WIPs –works in progress). We have non-judgmental people to help you.
- Share your knowledge and passion with like-minded people.
- We periodically create small projects to donate to hospitals such as baby blankets for Children's Hospital and hospitalized babies of First Presbyterian Church.

Threads of Kindness meets Wednesdays from 12:30 – 1:30 PM in the Gathering Space.

If you have questions or would like to gather with Threads of Kindness
contact Danielle Vachow @ dani.vachow@outlook.com

COME GATHER AT THE TABLE THIS FALL

You are invited to *The Table: A Presbyterian Women Bible Study*, a new monthly gathering centered on Scripture, conversation, and community. Mary Hall will lead the group using the Presbyterian Women curriculum, with each meeting designed to feel relaxed and welcoming—more like gathering in a café with friends than attending a formal class. The group will meet on the first Thursday of each month from 10:30–11:30 a.m. in the Fireplace Room, beginning October 1. We will be starting with the Bible Study, *United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians* by Rhonda Mawhood Lee. Use this link to buy the book. <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/product/united-through-christ-bound-to-each-other-english-edition/>

CHRISTIAN CONCERNS CLASS

Christian Concerns Class begins the 2026 fall programming on September 20th discussing **Dr. John Inasu's** newest book, *Learning to Disagree*. On September 27th we will be listening to and discussing the video of Rev. Adam Hamilton entitled: *"Religion and Politics: The dangerous Myth that religion and politics Don't Mix"* Join us in room 009 at 9:30 am Sunday morning or join with Zoom To be added to the Zoom or recording list: Ann Miller: ann.willie@hotmail.com.

BOOK CLUBS

- **Wednesday Book Club:** *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans on September 23rd at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireplace Room and over Zoom. For more information, contact julia@abreu.net.
- **Tuesday Book Club:** *The Sum of Us: What Racisms Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together* by Heather McGhee on Tuesday, September 8th at 10 a.m. in the Fireplace Room. For more information, contact kochkaren@gmail.com.
- **Sarah's Circle:** *Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth* by Reza Aslah on Wednesday, September 9th at 2:00 p.m. For more information contact jgpaniello@charter.net.

SAVE THE DATES

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wednesday, 9/16– Midmonth Recital 12:15 pm; Logos begins 4 pm• Friday–Sunday, 9/18–20, Greentree Festival• Sunday, 9/20– Adult Sunday School classes begin; 50–Year Member Recognition; new member class 10 am• Thursday, 10/1–launch of Presbyterian Women Bible Study, The Table, 10 am• Saturday, 10/3– 10 am, Blessing of the Animals• Sunday, 10/4– World Communion Sunday; 3 pm Con Spirito• Sunday, 10/11– Rise Against Hunger, 10 am• Wednesday, 10/14– Midmonth Recital, 12:15 pm• Saturday, 10/17– Family Hayride• Sunday, 10/18– Congregational Meeting 12 pm• Wednesday, 10/21– New Member Class 6 pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Friday–Saturday, 10/23–10/24– Kirkin of the Tartan• Thursday, 10/29– Kirkwood Halloween Walk• Friday–Sunday, 10/30–11/1– Arte de Lagrimas Art Exhibit• Sunday, 11/1– All Saints Sunday; 3 pm Arte de Lagrimas Lecture and Exhibit• Monday, 11/2– Blood Drive• Wednesday, 11/4– New Member Class 6 pm• Sunday, 11/8– New Member Class 10 am• Friday–Sunday, 11/13–11/15– Senior High Fellowship Retreat• Sunday, 11/15– 12 pm Congregational Meeting• Wednesday, 11/18– Midmonth Recital 12:15 pm• Thursday–Friday, 11/26–11/27– Thanksgiving holiday, church offices closed• Sunday, 11/29– 1st Sunday of Advent; New Members join |
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GIVE ONLINE

Give online with a one time gift, or set up recurring 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 follow the prompts, text "GIVEFPCK" to 73256, or scan the QR code to go directly to our giving portal.

Questions? Reach out to accounting@kirkwoodpres.org

