

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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, Oct. 4 & 11:** 10:10 a.m. or 12:15 p.m.
- **Tuesday, Oct. 6:** 11:15 a.m.
- **Thursday, Oct. 8:** October 8th – 7 PM Meeting on Zoom – use link or QR code
Link: <https://bit.ly/zoomfocusgroup>



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

MAKE A DAY OF IT AT FIRST PRES

Join us **TODAY**, October 4, for an afternoon of music and a delicious evening together.

3:00 p.m. | Con Spirito Opening Concert

Mezzo soprano Debra Hillabrand and the Con Brio String Quartet present Intimate Conversations, an afternoon of beautiful chamber music. All are welcome!

5:45–6:45 p.m. | Chili Cook-Off

Come hungry, sample the chili, and support next summer's Work Camp trip.

Admission is \$7 per person at the door, with no registration needed.

Bring a little extra if you'd like to vote for your favorite chili.

Come for one event or stay for both. We'd love to see you!

WORLD COMMUNION SPECIAL OFFERING

Gifts to the PCUSA World Communion Offering (Sep 6 – Oct 4) are used for reconciliation by promoting Racial Justice, Gender Justice, Peacemaking, Global Witness, and Ecumenical & Interfaith Relations. Giving envelopes and brochures are available in the Narthex. Online gifts may be made through the First Pres website under the Give tab and selecting World Communion Offering fund. For information on this Special Offering, please visit pcusa.org.

HELP US PREPARE FOR ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

On **Sunday, November 1**, we will observe All Saints Sunday, remembering by name those in our congregation and their loved ones who have died during the past year. Together, we will give thanks for their lives and the love they shared. To help us ensure no one is overlooked, please email office@kirkwoodpres.org with the name of an immediate family member (e.g spouse, child, sibling, parent) you would like remembered during the service—even if you believe the church already has their information. Please also let us know if you or another family member plans to attend and participate in the candle lighting. Please submit any information no later than Sunday, October 18.

2027 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

In the upcoming week you will receive a mailing for our annual stewardship campaign. We invite you to take a few moments to prayerfully consider making a financial pledge for 2027. Every pledge—no matter the size—shows your support and helps us plan for the ministry and mission we share. Make your 2027 pledge today at <https://www.kirkwoodpres.org/pledge-form>.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF KIRKWOOD
SUNDAY, October 18, 2026
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE 11AM SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY

Pursuant to the Form of Government G-1.0502, the Session has called a Special Meeting of the Congregation immediately following the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service on Sunday, October 18, 2026, for the purpose of electing Elders and Deacons to the Class of 2027.

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

UPCOMING GUEST CONCERTS

Sunday October 11th at 3:00 p.m.
Bach Society singing Haydn's *The Creation*

Monday, October 12th at 2:00 p.m.
Chamber Music St. Louis presents its first concert in the Matinee Concert Series
Performing music by Albinoni, Dvořák, Pachelbel, and Mozart

Sunday October 18th at 3:00 p.m.
Metropolitan Orchestra of St. Louis
Featuring Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*

RISE AGAINST HUNGER

We are happy to announce that we will be hosting another **Rise Against Hunger event on Sunday, October 11, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Gathering Space.** Come join your fellow First Pres members as we prepare up to 10,000 nutritious meals for those in need around the world. Please bring your kids and your friends, and join us for a fun-filled time together.

Rise Against Hunger works in countries worldwide to fight hunger, targeting communities facing high rates of food insecurity. They provide volunteer-packaged meals and other assistance, often through school feeding programs, to support nutrition, education and health for children and families facing hunger right now. See you on October 11th!

BOOK CLUB: BEING PRESBYTERIAN IN A DYSVANGELICAL AMERICA

Please join Pastors Gary and Rachel for a book club discussing the new book, *Being Presbyterian in a Dysvangelical America: A Guide to Reclaiming the Good News of God's Grace*, by Ted Foote and P. Alex Thornburg. Written by two Presbyterian pastors, the book explores how Christians (and in particular Presbyterians) can claim our faith as good news for all in a time when Christianity has been weaponized against so many. **We will meet weekly on Wednesdays from 1-2:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, beginning October 7 and concluding November 18.** Please order a copy of the book ahead of time! It can be purchased on Amazon or a variety of other booksellers.

If you would like to form a book club to discuss this book but cannot attend during the day on Wednesdays, we encourage you to form a group with your friends- discussion questions are included for each chapter! **Register on Realm using this QR code:**



PRESCHOOL SILENT AUCTION



Our well-loved playground has served children for 20 years—and now it's time for something new! Help First Presbyterian Children's Center create an exciting new playground by participating in our Silent Auction, October 6–11. Get ready to bid early and bid often! Scan the QR code to the left!

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! Three remaining new member classes are offered in advance of joining– you only need to attend one:

- **Wednesday, October 21, 6:00 p.m.**
- **Wednesday, November 4, 6:00 p.m.**
- **Sunday, November 8, 10:00 a.m.**



Scan 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.

SAVE THE DATE: *Arte de Lágrimas*

October 30–November 1, 2026

This fall, First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood will welcome **Dr. Gregory Cuellar of Austin Seminary** as he presents *Arte de Lágrimas*, a powerful art exhibit that tells the stories of refugee and asylum-seeking Central American children and youth crossing the Texas–Mexico border. Timed alongside All Saints' Day and Día de los Muertos, this multi-day sacred art experience will invite us into reflection, remembrance, and conversation about migration, human dignity, and how we are called to respond. Through art, guided conversation, and theological reflection, we will consider what this exhibit is asking of us—as individuals, as a congregation, and as a broader community.

Mark your calendar for a full weekend of opportunities to engage with the exhibit:

- **Friday, October 30:** Opening Reception
- **Saturday, October 31:** Exhibit Viewing Hours
- **Sunday, November 1 at 10:00 a.m.:** Class exploring the exhibit through the themes of All Saints' Day and Día de los Muertos
- **Sunday, November 1 at 3:00 p.m.:** Public Lecture with Dr. Gregory Cuellar

The exhibit will also be open before and after worship on Sunday.
Questions? Contact Rev. Rachel Finken at rfinken@kirkwoodpres.org.

CHRISTIAN CONCERNS CLASS

Christian Concerns Class will continue on Oct. 11 & 18 featuring **Chris Saxton** who will join us to enlighten us on: **"Manifest Destiny & US Expansion"**

Week 2: The West | **Week 3:** The Go-ahead Spirit

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.

FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP CONTINUES ON SUNDAYS

Stop by for coffee and conversation this fall. 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 Room from 10:00–10:45 a.m.

FIRST PRES CHURCH LIBRARY BOOK DONATION

First Pres has a new library! We need more books to fill our shelves.

- To donate a book –
- Aim your phone camera at the QR code.
- A link will show up on your screen.
- Click the link & it will take you to the Amazon wish list!



BOOK CLUBS

- **Wednesday Book Club:** *Culpability* by Bruce Holsinger on October 28th at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireplace Room and over Zoom. For more information, contact julia@abreu.net.
- **Tuesday Book Club:** *MINISTRY FOR THE FUTURE: A Novel*, by Kin Stanley on October 6th at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireplace Room. For more information, contact kochkarenp@gmail.com.
- **The History Book Club:** *The Spy and the Traitor: The Greatest Espionage Story of the Cold War* by Ben MacIntyre on Thursday, October 22nd at 10:30 a.m. in Room 29. Contact gornatir@yahoo.com with questions.

SAVE THE DATES

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| • Sunday, 10/4: Con Spirito Concert at 3PM | • Monday, 11/2: Blood Drive |
| • Sunday, 10/11: Rise Against Hunger at 10AM | • Wednesday, 11/4: New Member Class at 6PM |
| • Wednesday, 10/14: Midmonth Recital at 12:15PM | • Sunday, 11/8: New Member Class at 10AM |
| • Saturday, 10/17: Family Hayride | • Friday–Sunday, 11/13–11/15: Senior High Fellowship Retreat |
| • Sunday, 10/18: Congregational Meeting at 12PM | • Sunday, 11/15: Congregational Meeting at 12PM |
| • Wednesday, 10/21: New Member Class at 6PM | • Wednesday, 11/18: Midmonth Recital at 12:15PM |
| • Friday–Saturday, 10/23–10/24: Kirkin of the Tartan | • Thursday–Friday, 11/26–11/27: Thanksgiving holiday, church offices closed |
| • Sunday–Friday, 10/25–10/30: Adult Work Week | • Sunday, 11/29: 1st Sun of Advent; New Members join |
| • Thursday, 10/29: Kirkwood Halloween Walk | |
| • Friday–Sunday, 10/30–11/1: Arte de Lagrimas | |
| • Sunday, 11/1: All Saints Sunday; Arte de Lagrimas Lecture at 3PM and Exhibit | |

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

