

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2027 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

We have had a strong response to our 2027 Stewardship Campaign. To date we have heard from 120 households pledging over \$555k. If you have not yet pledged, we invite you to take a few moments to prayerfully consider making a financial pledge for 2027. By pledging, no matter the size, you show your support and help us plan for the ministry and mission we share. We appreciate your support and prayer consideration. Make your 2027 pledge today at <https://www.kirkwoodpres.org/pledge-form> or through the Realm app.

ARTE DE LAGRIMAS: DETAILS FOR A MEANINGFUL WEEKEND

NEXT WEEKEND, 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.

Join us for a full weekend of opportunities to engage with the exhibit:

- **Friday, October 30:** Opening Reception, 6 pm
- **Saturday, October 31:** Exhibit Viewing Hours, 10 am– noon
- **Sunday, November 1 at 10:00 a.m.:** Spreading Our Branches: The Roots of Migration and the Search for Home
- **Sunday, November 1 at 3:00 p.m.:** Empathy Fulfilled: Be-longing versus Be-littling 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.

SAVE THE DATE: ABIDE IN LOVE PRESENTATION

Join us in the fellowship hall on Sunday, **November 8** at 12:15 pm for a presentation from Abide in Love. Vicky Michaels will share with us a bit about the organization and how we can get involved. Abide in Love St. Louis fosters compassion, dignity and community with immigrants and their families. We build meaningful relationships, provide support in times of need, and connect individuals with essential resources that promote stability. To learn more about Abide in Love's work, visit abideinlovestl.org.

COMMUNITY FALL BLOOD DRIVE NOVEMBER 2026

The Deacons at First Presbyterian Church Kirkwood are sponsoring a community Red Cross Blood Drive on **Monday afternoon, November 2, 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 you can 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 to complete pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of the appointment. We will be in the Gathering Space for **"in person" sign up this weekend**, between worship services and after the 11:00 a.m. service for anyone who would like help in signing up. Our community really supported the extra blood drive in August. However there continues to be a critical need for blood. Please consider giving this gift of life and letting friends/family know about the need to keep the blood supply stable in our community.

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!

We only have "two" classes left. New member classes are offered in advance of joining- you only need to attend one:

- **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.

CHAMBER MUSIC ST LOUIS WEEKDAY SERIES

Join us for a special weekday concert on Monday, November 2nd at 2:00 p.m. to hear Chamber Music St. Louis perform Familiar Territory – a program of audience favorites, timeless gems, and chamber works you love to hear again and again. Tickets are \$30 and are available online ahead of time or at the door. Bill Stein will be a featured soloist, playing the great 'Toccata and Fugue in D minor' by Johann Sebastian Bach on our magnificent Casavant pipe organ.

Visit chambermusicstl.org for more information.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Grief can feel isolating, but you don't have to navigate it alone. Our Grief Support Group offers a welcoming, supportive space to share experiences, find understanding, and connect with others who have experienced loss. The group meets on the **fourth Monday of each month from 1:30–3:00 p.m.**

in the Fireplace Room. Our next meeting is **Monday, October 26.** We also gather for an informal social time on the **second Monday of each month from 1:30–3:00 p.m. at The Daily Bread Bakery & Cafe in Des Peres.** Inspired by grief counselor Alan Wolfelt, we strive to be "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." For questions or more information, please contact

Ellen Welsh Dabler at Ln4cats@gmail.com.

FALL CLEAN UP

The Buildings and Grounds Committee invites you to join us on **Saturday, November 7, 8am–11am** for the Fall Clean-Up. We will be cleaning up garden areas, trimming bushes, branch removal, and start prepping for winter. Please bring rakes, trowels, shovels, work gloves and hedge trimmers. Thank you in advance for helping keep our grounds looking their best. Contact Bill

Larson blarson@kirkwoodpres.org if you have any questions.

NOW SHOWING IN THE KIRK GALLERY: ART BY OUR MEMBERS

We are excited to share the newest exhibit in The Kirk Gallery, located on the lower level of the church near the elevator. Now through November 22, the gallery features a special exhibition celebrating the creativity and talents of artists from our own congregation. We invite you to spend some time in the gallery, enjoy the work, and experience art as a source of inspiration, meditation, and conversation.

ISAIAH 58: HELP FAMILIES WITH HOLIDAY GROCERIES

Buy-A-Bird is live for 2026!

Help support Isaiah 58 Ministries in their winter holiday efforts. Giving thanks is a holiday tradition celebrated by families everywhere. But for many, this proves difficult due to financial hardships.

Through December 31, 2026, your gift to our Buy-A-Bird campaign will help 700 local families gather around tables overflowing with both food and gratitude.

Each guest will receive holiday groceries and gift cards to celebrate the season abundantly with joy and grace.

\$40 = One Holiday Meal

\$400 = Ten Holiday Meals

Click the button below and pick the designation "buy-a-bird" OR scan the QR code to make a donation online:



Or mail a check to:

Isaiah 58 Ministries
2149 S. Grand Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63104

(memo: Buy-A-Bird)

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, we began October 7 and will conclude on 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:**



CHRISTIAN CONCERNS CLASS

November 1st from 9:30 to 9:55 we will watch a 20-minute video about how faith intersects with political thinking. **November 8th, 15th and 22nd** George Durnell will be with us for four weeks of listening and dialogue around the composition *A German Requiem* by Johannes Brahms.

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. Our first series, *Tackling the Tough Questions: Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?* continues through October 25.

Class meets in the Fireplace Room from 10:00-10:45 a.m.

HELP FILL OUR LITTLE FREE PANTRIES

We need more food donations for our Little Free Pantries. Our supplies are almost empty.



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.

BOOK CLUBS

- **Tuesday Book Club:** *Ministry for the Future* by Kim Stanley Robinson on Tuesdays, 10:00–11:00 AM in Fireplace Room. November book: *Dispatches from Pluto: Lost and Found in the Mississippi Delta* by Richard Grant. Contact kochkarenp@gmail.com with questions.
- **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.
- **History Book Club:** *Mornings on Horseback* by David Mc Cullough on Thursday, November 19 at 10:30 in Rm 29. Contact gornatir@yahoo.com with questions.

SAVE THE DATES

- **Sunday–Friday, 10/25–10/30:** Adult Work Week
- **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
- **Monday, 11/2:** Blood Drive
- **Wednesday, 11/4:** New Member Class at 6PM
- **Sunday, 11/8:** New Member Class at 10AM,
- **Sunday, 11/8:** Abide in Love Presentation, 12:15 pm
- **Friday–Sunday, 11/13–11/15:** SHF Retreat
- **Sunday, 11/15:** Congregational Meeting at 12PM
- **Wednesday, 11/18:** Midmonth Recital at 12:15PM
- **Thursday–Friday, 11/26–11/27:** Thanksgiving holiday,
church offices closed
- **Sunday, 11/29:** 1st Sun of Advent; New Members join
- **Sunday, 12/6:** Alternative Gift Market 8:45–12:30
- **Sunday, 12/13:** Alternative Gift Market 8:45–12:30
Christmas Concert 4 – 5pm
Christmas Dinner 5:30 – 6:30pm
- **Tuesday, 12/15:** Service of Comfort 6:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday 12/16:** Mid-Month Music Series
- **Thursday, 12/24:** Christmas Eve Services
Worship Service 2:00 p.m.
Children's Pageant 4:00 p.m.
Lesson & Carols 10:00 p.m.
- **Sunday, 12/27** Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

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

