

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Lenten Water Challenge



### **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, by using the QR code or by visiting <https://bit.ly/fpklentonwaterchallenge>**  
Thank you for joining in this Lenten act of care and compassion.

### **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 to our class offerings this spring: Wednesday, March 4 at 6 pm or Sunday, March 8 at 10:00 a.m.. To RSVP, please use the signup genius QR code or click the button below.

If you would like to join and this time doesn't work for you, please email Rachel at [rfinken@kirkwoodpres.org](mailto:rfinken@kirkwoodpres.org)



### **Lenten Recital Series**

Our next Lenten Recital Series program is this Friday, March 6th, 2026 and will feature the Perseid String Quartet. They will perform music by Farranc, Dvorák, Price, and Morricone.

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



# ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

## SPECIAL OFFERINGS

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HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

### One Great Hour of Sharing

The Presbyterian Church USA annually sponsors three special offerings that support a variety of services and ministries worldwide. One Great Hour of Sharing (Feb 18-Apr 5) supports Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. Collection envelopes are available in the Narthex and welcome desk. Online gifts may be made through our website under the Give tab. For more info, visit [pcusa.org](http://pcusa.org).

YOU'RE INVITED TO

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

### *Coffee Gathering*



**SUNDAY, MARCH 8**  
**10:00-10:50 AM IN**  
**THE FIREPLACE ROOM**

Please join us for an informal gathering of the ladies of First Pres. We will have coffee, light refreshments, and time to get to know one another!

### 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!



### Midmonth Music Series

Our next Midmonth organ recital is Wednesday, March 18, at 12:15 and features guest organist John Cargile. John is the organist of Manchester United Methodist Church.

## Flu and 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.

## 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 is a six-week series which began on Wednesday, February 25 and will conclude 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).



*Scan to buy  
the book*



*Scan to  
register*



## Save the Date for Next Con Spirito Concert

Save the date for Sunday, March 22nd at 3:00 p.m. for our next Con Spirito Concert featuring guitarist, W. Mark Akin.

Award-winning classical guitarist W. Mark Akin is a St. Louis based musician who has engaged audiences across the country with his dynamic on-stage presence and musicality.

## Spiritual Formation

This month we will explore a prayer/meditation practice to lay a foundation for compassion and loving kindness in our lives. Here is a link to the reading for our shared discussion

<https://www.kirkwoodpres.org/important-documents>. All are invited to join our spiritual formation virtual gathering on March 8th at 9:00am. The link to join

is: <https://meet.google.com/bjk-egqx-mje>

If you wish to know more, please contact Tom Edelstein: [tedelstein@att.net](mailto:tedelstein@att.net)

## 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)

- 3-8-26: Journey for Social Justice Part 2

We welcome back Betsy Solomon to Christian Concerns to share 3 artists' work.

- 3-15-26 Jan Van Eyck: Seeing the Sacred and the Everyday
- 3-22-26 Raphael: An Angel from Urbino
- 3-29-26 Tintoretto: Venetian Renaissance Master

## Marion Medical Mission presentation!

Join us onn Sunday, March 22th at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside room (also happens to be "World Water Day!") Alisa Simpson has been on the trip to Tanzania and will share her experiences with us.

## 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 are currently discussing *THE ROAD TO WISDOM: ON TRUTH, SCIENCE, FAITH AND TRUST*, by Francis S. Collins. Contact: [kochkarenp@gmail.com](mailto:kochkarenp@gmail.com).
- **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)
- **Wednesday Book Club:** The next meeting of the Wednesday book club is March 25th at 1:30 in the fireplace room and over zoom. We will be discussing *The Spy and the Traitor* by Ben Macintyre. This is a true story of a KGB officer who became a double agent for MI6 during the Cold War. Please contact [julia@abreu.net](mailto:julia@abreu.net) for more information.

## 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).

