

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All In: Living Generously, Serving Boldly, Stewardship 2026

We recently celebrated Stewardship Sunday and were encouraged to be *All In: Living Generously, Serving Boldly*. We invite you to take a few moments to prayerfully consider what being "All In" looks like for you in 2026. Every pledge—no matter the size—helps us plan boldly for the ministry and mission we share.

Make your 2026 pledge today at <https://www.kirkwoodpres.org/pledge-form>.

Annual Christmas Concert and Dinner!

Our annual Christmas Concert is **TODAY at 4:00 pm!** This popular event is a highlight in the life of our congregation. The Chancel Choir has been busy preparing for this year's concert which will feature the "Gloria" by Antonio Vivaldi and carols from around the world arranged by Mack Wilberg, John Rutter, Gustav Holst, Dan Forrest, and more! The Con Spirito Concert Committee usually collects a free-will offering at this performance to help with costs. However, this year, considering the need in our greater community, the free-will offering will be divided between Kirk Care and Isaiah 58 Ministries. These funds will help those with food insecurities, as well as with utility bill and clothing assistance. We can think of no better way to give back to our community than an afternoon filled with glorious music and helping folks have a brighter holiday!

Alternative Gift Market

Come shop at the Alternative Gift Market! It is held in the Gathering Space today from 8:45-12:15. The market provides one-stop, hassle-free shopping for a variety of unique gifts that benefit local and international organizations, charities, and fair trade. Please come visit us in December! Thank you so much for your support!

Service of Comfort

The loss of a loved one, a life change, or seasonal depression can make the days of December feel challenging while the rest of the world is celebrating. We will gather in the chapel **on this Tuesday, December 16th at 7:00 p.m.** for a quiet service that recognizes this hurt. All are welcome to this time of meditation and prayer in the midst of Advent.

Midmonth Concert Series

This Wednesday, December 17th, Bill Stein, Director of Music Ministries, and Kevin Chunko, Music Associate, will perform our next Midmonth Music Series recital!

They will present a delightful program of Christmas duets guaranteed to put you in the holiday spirit! Join us in the sanctuary that day at 12:15 p.m. for 30 minutes of seasonal organ and piano music.

Last Day to Order Christmas Poinsettias!

Today is the last day to order Poinsettias. This is a wonderful way to honor a loved one and help beautify our worship spaces for Christmas. Cost is \$30 each. Order by clicking the QR code or by completing an order form available at the Welcome Desk. You may order online at www.kirkwoodpres.org under the "Give" heading. Questions? Contact Bill Larson at blarson@kirkwoodpres.org.



Advent Book Study

You are invited to join Pastors Gary and Rachel for an Advent Book Club, where together we will discuss AJ Levine's book, [A Child is Born: A Beginner's Guide to Nativity Stories](#).

We will meet the first four Mondays in December from 1-2 pm in the Fellowship Hall. To join, please sign up <https://bit.ly/2025adventbookstudy> and purchase a copy of the book (you can order from Amazon: <https://bit.ly/2025adventbookorder>).



Sign Up Here

Assigned readings for each week are below:

- Monday, December 15: Chapter 3
- Monday, December 22: Chapter 4



Buy Book Here

Reach out to Rachel (rfinken@kirkwoodpres.org) with any questions.

Couldn't make the Advent Book Study?

Come join Pastor Rachel on Sunday, December 21st at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireplace Room, where we will discuss the highlights of AJ Levine's *A Child is Born*, exploring the connections between Jesus' birth stories and birth stories of the Old Testament. No prep needed! Reach out to Rachel (rfinken@kirkwoodpres.org) with any questions.

Christmas Joy Special Offering

Supporting the Presbyterian Christmas Joy Offering honors God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Donation envelopes may be found in the narthex. Online donations may be made on the First Pres website by clicking "Give Now" under the Giving tab and selecting "Christmas Joy" fund.

Kirk Gallery

Please take a few moments to browse the Kirk Gallery and enjoy Christmas and Winter-inspired art created and donated by members of the congregation. This display will be up through the end of December.

Advent Devotionals Available Now!



There are a few hard copies available in the lobby or you can view/download the booklet by visiting: <https://www.kirkwoodpres.org/devotionals2025> or by using the QR code. Questions? Contact Rev. Rachel Finken at rfinken@kirkwoodpres.org. Thank you to all that blessed us with this wonderful spiritual gift for our congregation.

Introducing Faith in Print: Where Faith Meets Conversation

Looking for a space to explore thoughtful stories, deepen your faith, and connect with others? **Faith in Print** is a new monthly gathering for young adults (and anyone young at heart) who loves good books, meaningful conversation, and putting faith into action. Each month, we'll read a book that invites curiosity, laughter, reflection, and hope. Then we'll come together to share what moved us...and bring those themes to life through service projects that support our community.

First Meeting: Monday, January 5 • 7:00–8:30 p.m.

Location: Fireplace Room

Recurrence: First Monday of every month

Come for the stories. Stay for the conversation. Leave with a renewed sense of purpose.

Winter Outreach Winter Clothing and Blanket Drive

Winter Outreach is a coalition of Saint Louis city churches that provides a warm place to stay for unhoused persons on nights when the temperature falls below 25 degrees. As we did last year, we are working with the Saint Louis Mennonite Fellowship to help provide donations of blankets and winter clothing. You can place your donations in the box opposite the church lounge.

What's needed: gently used or new winter blankets, twin or full size only. No king or queen size blankets, please, and no knit or crocheted blankets. Blankets should be easily washable. New or gently-used winter clothing, jackets, etc. Men's or women's sweatpants are a particular need. Place your donations in the large box opposite the door to the church lounge.

Taste of Advent

We invite you to participate in "A Taste of Advent". This is a fun, family mission opportunity that serves our neighbors by collecting the designated items for each day of Advent, and bringing them to church each Sunday, including Christmas Eve. The food collected will be split between Kirk Care and our own Little Food Pantry.

If you did not receive a copy, you can pick one up at the Welcome Desk.

Discussing Faith in Today's World

10:00 a.m. | Fireplace Room | After Arise! Worship

Looking for a meaningful next step after Arise! worship—especially while your kids are in Sunday School? Join a relaxed, thought-provoking conversation in the Fireplace Room as we explore what faith looks like in today's world. We're diving into the Animate: Bible video series, featuring modern faith leaders like Nadia Bolz-Weber and Rachel Held Evans, who bring honesty, humor, and deep insight to ancient questions. Each session includes a short video, group discussion, and space to share your own story. Come as you are—no homework, no prep, just real conversation and community. All adults are invited to attend.

Upcoming Topics:

Dec. 14: Love Is the Bottom Line - Grace and your history with the Bible

No class on Dec. 21 and Dec. 28 due to the holidays. Classes resume on January 4, 2026.

Christmas Eve Services

Join us on Wednesday, December 24th for Christmas Eve!

- **2:00 p.m. Brief Service of Carols & Reflection:** Join us for this brief (45-minute) service featuring Christmas carols and a reflection as we prepare for the coming of the Christ Child.
- **4:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Pageant** Our Children's Choirs will present the Christmas Pageant through story and song. Special music will also be provided by our Middle School Bell Choir.
- **9:30 p.m. Prelude by the Rosewood Ensemble**
- **10:00 p.m. Festive Christmas Worship** Join us for carols, scriptures, and the Christmas message from Rev'd. Gary Noonan. Our Chancel Choir and guest instrumentalists will present special music, including "Silent Night" sung by candlelight.

Christian Concerns

Sundays from 9:30-10:30 a.m. in Room 009 or on Zoom. Contact ann.willie@hotmail.com
The Mother, The Tower, and the Preacher: An Advent Exploration of the Women Jesus Loved
Join us for a very Presbyterian Advent study with Rev. Hannah Zyla, engaging our minds to light a fire for God in our hearts, as we explore three different postures of discipleship while we interrogate how and why we read Scriptures — and why it matters.

December 21: The Preacher Martha of Bethany — Faithful Rage

Book Clubs

- **Tuesday Book Club:** The Tuesday Book Club meets each Tuesday in the Fireplace Room from 10:00-11:00 AM. In December we will begin discussing *Protect Immunity and Fight Off Dementia*, by Marc Milstein, PhD. before our holiday break from December 16-January 6. Everyone is welcome to join in. Contact: kochkarenp@gmail.com.
- **Wednesday Book Club:** Join us on January 28, 2026 in the fireplace room and over Zoom. We will be discussing *All the Things We Cannot Say* by Kelly Rimmer - A woman's urgent search for answers to a family mystery that uncovers truths about herself that she never expected. Contact julia@abreu.net for more information.
- **History Book Club:** All are welcome to join us at the next meeting of the History Book Club, January 22nd at 10:30am in Room 29. We will be discussing *The Unexpected President: The Life and Times of Chester A. Arthur* by Scott S. Greenberger. "...an inspiring account of how a political hack was transformed in meeting the expectation of the presidency and rendered a virtuous service to the nation. Contact: gornatir@yahoo.com 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.

