

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All In: Living Generously, Serving Boldly, Stewardship 2026

We invite you to be All In: Living Generously, Serving Boldly and to take a few moments to prayerfully consider what being "All In" looks like for you in 2026. Please join the 234 households that have already committed to supporting First Pres in 2026. Your 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 Per Capita Offering

Each January, First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood pays a Per Capita offering to the Presbyterian Church (USA) which allows church governing bodies to participate "equally, responsibly, and interdependently by sharing the cost of coordination and evaluation of mission." First Presbyterian has benefitted greatly from the support and services PC(USA) has provided over the years and is committed to supporting it.

This year's Per Capita expense is \$40 per member. We would like to give our members the opportunity to help offset this expense through a special Per Capita Offering. Your \$40 Per Capita donation can be made by contributing through the Give page on the FPC website and selecting Per Capita Offering, or by mailing your donation to the office, or including it in the Per Capita envelopes during the offering at services. Your support is greatly appreciated.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF KIRKWOOD

SUNDAY, February 22, 2026

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE 10AM SERVICE

IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

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

The annual report is available for viewing on our website at
www.kirkwoodpres.org/important-documents

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.



Save the Date: Ash Wednesday Worship

Wednesday, February 18th, 2026 at 12 PM and 6 PM

Join us for Ash Wednesday worship as we begin the season of Lent together with prayer, reflection, and the imposition of ashes.

Family Activities at First Pres



**FAMILY OLYMPIC GAMES
SUNDAY, FEB. 22ND, 3-4:30 PM**

**Join us for FREE family fun!
Games for each age group
from elementary to retired!**

**RSVP to Rob at
rmonroe@kirkwoodpres.org
for snack count.**

Faith in Real Life: A Gathering For Young Adults

This is a group for young adults looking for community and space to talk about what actually matters, then do something about it. If this is you, come join us the first Monday of each month. We meet from 7-8:30 pm in the Fireplace Room. No prep.

No pressure. Just show up. Questions? Contact Carley Lagemann at carleygrace178@gmail.com.

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 for and attend one of the new member classes we will be offering this spring:

- Wednesday, February 11 @ 6 pm
- Sunday, March 8 @ 10 am



To RSVP for a new member class, please use the sign up genius QR code. If you would like to join and none of these times work for you, please email Rachel at rfinken@kirkwoodpres.org.

Your input needed – Survey Closing Today!

The Adult Education Committee is seeking to gather feedback from all adults at the church—those who currently attend any type of educational offering at the church as well as those who don't! Please scan the QR code below to take a short survey (less than 5 minutes!) so we can use your input as we plan programming for the coming year. If you prefer a paper-based copy of the survey, please take one from the welcome desk and return it to the church office (addressed to Rachel) when you are done!



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 will be a six-week series beginning on Wednesday, February 25 and concluding 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.



*Scan to buy
the book*



*Scan to
register*

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!

Upcoming Concert Save the Dates

Midmonth Music Series Concert

Wednesday, February 11th at 12:15 p.m.

featuring Nancy Peterson, organist at Zion Lutheran Church

Con Spirito Concert Series: IMI Chamber Players

Sunday, February 15th at 3:00 p.m.

Kirk Gallery display by local Black artists

Celebrating Black History Month

Lenten Recital Series

Our Friday Chapel Series begins on Friday, February 20th

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

Look for more details later this month!

Kirk Gallery

In February the Kirk Gallery is once again excited to share work by local artists in honor of Black History Month. We will have a display in the lower level space on **Sunday, February 8th** and a special display in the Gathering Space following the **February 15th** 3:00 pm Con Spirito concert.

Father Kleba's documentary film

The film that was presented in July 2025 and was part of an international film festival is now available for streaming on vimeo. You can access the video at <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/blackhistorytour>.

Christian Concerns

Sundays from 9:30-10:30 a.m. in Room 009 or on Zoom. Contact ann.willie@hotmail.com

- 2-15-26: Journey for Social Justice part 1 with Mississippi Travelers
- 2-22-26: CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND NO CHRISTIAN CONCERNS CLASS
- 3-1-26: John Hendrix with the Carver Project
- 3-8-26: Journey for Social Justice Part 2

Book Clubs

- **Tuesday Book Club:** We will complete discussions of *ABUNDANCE*, by Ezra Klein and Derek Thompson on Feb 10. All are welcome to join our discussions each Tuesday from 10:00-11:00 AM in the Fireplace Room. We will begin discussions on February 17 of *AGE OF REVOLUTIONS: PROGRESS AND BACKLASH FROM 1600 TO THE PRESENT*, by Fareed Zakaria. In March we will be discussing *THE ROAD TO WISDOM: ON TRUTH, SCIENCE, FAITH AND TRUST*, by Francis S. Collins. Contact: kochkarenp@gmail.com.
- **Wednesday Book Club:** The next Wednesday book club is February 25 at 1:30 in the fireplace room and over zoom. We will be discussing *How to Read a Book* by Monica Woods. An uplifting novel about a chance encounter at a bookstore, exploring redemption, unlikely friendships, and the life-changing power of sharing stories. Contact julia@abreu.net for more information.
- **History Book Club:** We will hold our next meeting on Thursday, February 26 at 10:30am in Room 29. We will be discussing *History Matters* by David McCullough, a posthumous collection of essays by the best-selling author and Pulitzer Prize winning historian. All are welcome. Contact gornatir@yahoo.com with any questions.
- **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 or Ellen Wood at wood.ellen.g@gmail.com

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.

