



FALL 2026 CATALOG

FIND YOUR PLACE

WORSHIP



LEARN

CONNECT



SERVE



There is more than one way to belong.

At First Pres, belonging can look like singing, asking hard questions, chopping vegetables, ringing bells, rocking babies, delivering a casserole, fixing a light - or simply showing up. This guide is an invitation to find the people, practices and places that help you feel connected.

WORSHIP

Gather around prayer, Scripture, music and the sacraments.

LEARN

Grow through classes, studies, books and honest conversation.

CONNECT

Build friendships and care for one another through every season.

SERVE

Put faith into action within the church and throughout our community.

START ANYWHERE

Email the contact listed with any group. Questions are welcome; first visits do not require a long-term commitment.

SAVE THE DATES

September

The programming year begins with worship, learning, fellowship and plenty of ways to step in.



OUR SUNDAY RHYTHM

9:05 a.m. Arise! • 10:00 a.m. Learning & Connection • 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

SUN 9/13 Programming Year Launch; Arise! at 9:05 a.m.; First Fair at 10:00 a.m.; Children's Sunday School begins; Traditional Worship at 11:00 a.m.

WED 9/16 Midmonth Recital Series at 12:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary; Logos begins.

FRI-SUN 9/18-20 Greentree Festival - volunteer at the First Pres booth or stop by to say hello.

SUN 9/20 Celebrating Our 50+ Year Members at both services.

SUN 9/20 Adult Sunday School begins; Faith & Fellowship launches at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireplace Room.

SUN 9/20 New Member Class at 10:00 a.m.

Dates and locations can change. Watch church communications for the latest details.

SAVE THE DATES

October & November

Make room for worship, music, service, sacred art and the beginning of Advent.

OCTOBER

- THU 10/1** The Table launches at 10:30 a.m. in the Fireplace Room.
- SAT 10/3** Blessing of the Animals at 10:00 a.m.
- SUN 10/4** World Communion Sunday; 3:00 p.m. Con Spirito Concert; 'Intimate Conversations' by Debra Hillabrand, mezzo-soprano, and the Con Brio string quartet
- SUN 10/11** Rise Against Hunger meal-packing event at 10:00 a.m.
- WED 10/14** Midmonth Recital Series at 12:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary.
- SAT 10/17** Family Hayride.
- SUN 10/18** Election of Officers.
- WED 10/21** New Member Class at 6:00 p.m.
- SUN 10/25** Reformation Sunday.
- THU 10/29** Kirkwood Halloween Walk - visit the First Pres table.
- FRI 10/30** Arte de Lágrimas opening reception; exhibit continues through November 1.

NOVEMBER

- SUN 11/1** All Saints Sunday; Arte de Lágrimas class at 10:00 a.m. and public lecture at 3:00 p.m.
- MON 11/2** Blood Drive, 1:00-6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.
- WED 11/4** New Member Class at 6:00 p.m.
- SUN 11/8** New Member Class at 10:00 a.m.
- FRI-SUN 11/13-15** Senior High Fellowship Retreat.
- SUN 11/15** Terms of Call Congregational Meeting.
- WED 11/18** Midmonth Recital Series at 12:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary.
- THU-FRI 11/26-27** Thanksgiving holiday; church office closed.
- SUN 11/29** First Sunday of Advent; new members join the congregation.

KIRKIN' O' THE TARTAN

Details will be announced when confirmed.

Make Sunday Feel Like Home

Whether you lead, greet, prepare or connect online, small acts of service shape the experience of worship.



Arise!

Help lead or support our 9:05 a.m. contemporary service in Fellowship Hall. Musicians, singers and worshipers create an energetic, welcoming experience.

Rebecca Shipley | shipreb@gmail.com

Communion Preparation & Servers

Prepare the table, organize worship supplies and help serve Communion during scheduled services.

Bill Stein | bstein@kirkwoodpres.org

Ushers

Welcome worshipers, distribute materials, assist with seating and support the flow of each service.

Arthur McDonnell | arthur.mcdonnell19@gmail.com

Livestream Hosts

Greet online worshipers, share helpful links and extend First Pres hospitality beyond the building.

Gerry DeWulf | gmdewulf@gmail.com

Welcome Desk Volunteers

Offer directions, answer questions and help newcomers find the people and places they need.

Bill Larson | blarson@kirkwoodpres.org

Pew Partners

Keep pews stocked, orderly and ready for worship with attendance pads, envelopes and other materials.

Missy Wulff | wulffmk@yahoo.com

Make a Joyful Noise

Sing, ring, play or help present concerts that lift hearts and connect First Pres with the wider community.



Chancel Choir

Our principal choir provides music for the 11:00 a.m. service and special worship. Rehearsals are Thursdays, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Bill Stein | bstein@kirkwoodpres.org

Chancel Ringers

Adult handbell musicians rehearse Wednesdays, 6:15-7:00 p.m., and ring in worship and for special occasions.

Bill Wade | drwewade@gmail.com

Middle School Ringers

Students in grades 6-8 learn ringing skills and repertoire, then share music in worship and seasonal programs.

Bill Wade | drwewade@gmail.com

Children's Choirs

Cherubs and Choristers help children in kindergarten through fifth grade grow through music and lead throughout the year.

Bill Stein | bstein@kirkwoodpres.org

Church Orchestra

Members and friends who play any instrument at any level prepare for several worship appearances each year.

Bill Stein | bstein@kirkwoodpres.org

Musikgarten

Parents and children ages 3 months-5 years explore music together in daytime classes from September through May.

Ellen Welsh | ln4cats@gmail.com

Con Spirito Concert Series

Help bring high-quality, community-facing concerts and recitals to First Pres throughout the year.

Bill Stein | bstein@kirkwoodpres.org

Faith, Friendship & Shared Adventures

Safe, enriching experiences help young people ask questions, build relationships and discover that they belong.



Children's Center

Our preschool and Kids Day Out program provides a safe, nurturing place for young children to learn, play and grow.

Sherry Peters |
childrenscenter@kirkwoodpres.org | 314-965-4028

Children's Sunday School

Faith formation for preschool through eighth grade meets Sundays, 10:00-10:50 a.m., September through April.

Stephanie Schmidt |
sschmidt@kirkwoodpres.org

Nursery Care

Sunday morning care offers our youngest children a safe, welcoming space while families worship and learn.

Stephanie Schmidt |
sschmidt@kirkwoodpres.org

Logos

Our Wednesday midweek ministry blends Bible study, music, recreation and shared meals for children and youth.

Rob Monroe | rmonroe@kirkwoodpres.org

Senior High Fellowship

Students in grades 9-12 gather Sunday evenings for connection, faith, fun, retreats and service experiences.

Rob Monroe | rmonroe@kirkwoodpres.org

Children, Youth & Family Committee

Help shape safe, enriching ministries that support children, youth and families across the congregation.

Diana Kinslohr | dianakinslohr@gmail.com

Bring Your Questions

Faith can deepen through Scripture, books, community voices, spiritual practice and honest conversation.



Christian Concerns

Community speakers lead thoughtful conversations about history, the environment, theology and current concerns. Sundays at 9:30 a.m., Room 009 and Zoom.

Jeanne Earley | jeanneearley05@gmail.com

Faith & Fellowship

A new adult Sunday school gathering for learning, conversation and connection. Sundays at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireplace Room.

Heidi Meckes | hmm10181715@gmail.com

Saturday Bible Study

Read Scripture together, ask questions and explore how biblical texts speak into faithful life today.

Tim Morrison | timothy.lee.morrison@gmail.com

Spiritual Formation Group

Meet monthly online to read, reflect and listen for the presence of God within and among us.

Tom Edelstein | tedelstein@att.net

Tuesday Book Club

Read and enjoy lively conversation in a welcoming group. Meets weekly on Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireplace Room.

Karen Koch | kochkarenp@gmail.com

Wednesday Book Club

Avid readers gather for thoughtful conversation on the 4th Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireplace Room and over Zoom.

Julia Abreu | julia@abreu.net

History Book Club

Explore major people, ideas and movements through accessible history books and group discussion. Meets on the 4th Thursday at 10:30 a.m.

Robyn Gornati | gornatir@yahoo.com

Pull Up a Chair

Some of the most meaningful church moments begin with a cup of coffee, a shared story or a recurring place at the table.



COME AS YOU ARE

Circles, studies and informal gathering spaces offer different rhythms of friendship. Choose the time and shape that fit your life now.

A first email is enough to begin.

The Table

A Presbyterian Women Bible study gathering for fellowship, learning and conversation. Meets on the 1st Thursday at 10:30 a.m. starting October 1 in the Fireplace Room.

Mary Hall | marybhall39@gmail.com

Esther Circle

Women gather for prayer, fellowship, bible study and encouragement on the 2nd Thursday at 11:00 a.m. in the Gathering Space.

Julia Abreu | julia@abreu.net

Karen Circle

Women gather to study and discuss faith issues while creating community on the 2nd Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Lucy Tidwell | lucytidwellco@gmail.com

Sarah Circle

Women gather for fellowship and discussion of spiritual books on the 2nd Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. in the Church Lounge.

Jane Paniello | jgpaniello@charter.net

First Pres Cafe

Create an easy, hospitable place for coffee, conversation and connection between worship and programming.

Sarah Nepple | sarahbnepple@gmail.com

No One Carries It Alone

Offer presence, practical help and compassionate community through seasons of illness, caregiving, grief and need.



Board of Deacons

Deacons offer practical care, presence and service to people who are ill, homebound, grieving or otherwise in need.

Julie Woodrome | cjwoodrome5@gmail.com

Bereavement Committee

Support families after a death and help the congregation respond with care, hospitality and practical assistance.

Ginny Lester | ginnylester45@gmail.com

Grief Support Group

A compassionate space to share experiences of loss, receive support and move through grief in community. Meets 4th Monday at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireplace Room.

Ellen Welsh | In4cats@gmail.com • Mary Ann Shaw | mashaw5@sbcglobal.net

Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group

Caregivers share encouragement, resources and understanding with others navigating memory loss and dementia. Meets 3rd Saturday at 10:00 a.m. in Room 028.

Denise Callahan | gdcall@charter.net

Kirk Care

Support neighbors in the Kirkwood School District through food, utility assistance and volunteer service.

Don Lewis | donlewis610@gmail.com

Threads of Kindness

Gather for creative handwork, fellowship and projects that turn time and skill into tangible expressions of care. Meets weekly on Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. in the Gathering Space.

Danielle Vachow | dani.vachow@outlook.com

Faith Moves Outward

Our Matthew 25 commitment calls us to work with neighbors for dignity, justice, belonging and practical change.



Community Outreach & Matthew 25

Join justice-focused work that builds congregational vitality, dismantles structural racism and works to eradicate systemic poverty.

Charles Croissant | charles.croissant@slu.edu
• mission@kirkwoodpres.org

Afghan Family Committee

Offer friendship and practical support as refugee families build new lives in the St. Louis community.

Sharon Croissant | scrois822@gmail.com •
Tom Edelstein | tedelstein@att.net

Rise Against Hunger

Help organize and participate in our high-energy meal-packing event on Sunday, October 11 at 10:00 a.m.

Paul Quindry | paulquindry@gmail.com

St. Patrick Center Casseroles

Prepare breakfast casseroles that support St. Patrick Center's work with people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Bill Besselman | wb7359@swbell.net

Presbyterian Children's Homes & Services

Support a trusted Presbyterian partner providing safe, nurturing environments for children and families in crisis.

Deb Besselman | dejebe313@gmail.com

Kwasha Kids

Support free education and school meals for children at the Kwasha Molya Community School in Solwezi, Zambia.

Mary Ann Shaw | mashaw5@sbcglobal.net

Care For The Spaces & Stories We Share

Art, books, gardens, history and sacred spaces all help make the church a place of beauty, memory and welcome.

Garden Stewards

Tend church gardens and outdoor spaces through seasonal planting, weeding and hands-on care.

Lora Berthold | nthegarden@charter.net

Memorial Courtyard Stewards

Help preserve the beauty and reflective character of the Memorial Courtyard throughout the year.

Rhein Dabler | rheindabler@gmail.com

Kirk Gallery

Curate and support art for inspiration, meditation and conversation in the church's dedicated gallery space.

Amy Freshwater | afresh20@gmail.com

First Pres History

Preserve, interpret and share the people, stories and milestones that have shaped First Pres Kirkwood.

Ray Lester | ray_lester@sbcglobal.net

Church Library

Organize and care for the congregation's books and resources so they remain useful and easy to discover.

Jeanne Earley | jeanneearley05@gmail.com



ART FOR INSPIRATION & MEDITATION

HANDS-ON HELP WELCOME

You do not need to be an expert.
Curiosity, care and a willingness
to learn are valuable
contributions.

Committees Turn Ideas Into Ministry

Every committee welcomes volunteers. Bring your experience, questions and perspective to the work that keeps First Pres moving forward.

Worship, Music & the Arts

Support meaningful worship and the church's rich music and arts ministries.

Rebecca Shipley | shipreb@gmail.com

Children, Youth & Family Ministries

Foster religious growth, safety, fellowship and belonging for children, youth and families.

Diana Kinslohr | dianakinslohr@gmail.com

Community Outreach

Guide our Matthew 25 commitments and organize opportunities to serve and advocate with our neighbors.

Charles Croissant | charles.croissant@slu.edu

Hospitality

Extend a warm welcome and create spaces where members, visitors and community partners can connect.

Sarah Nepple | sarahbnepple@gmail.com

Buildings & Grounds

Maintain, improve and thoughtfully steward the church's facilities and grounds.

Dan Meckes | dmeck10181715@gmail.com

Membership Committee

Welcome people into membership and help members deepen their connection and commitment.

Brad Gift | brad.gift@att.net

Technology

Use technology to strengthen worship, hospitality, communication and the work of church staff.

Gerry DeWulf | gmdewulf@gmail.com

Steward People, Resources & Direction

Behind-the-scenes leadership helps staff flourish, resources serve the mission and new leaders answer the call.

Personnel

Support church staff, healthy employment practices and policies that strengthen ministry.

Mike Korte | mike@kortelaw.com

Faith Formation & Spirituality

Encourage lifelong learning, spiritual growth and thoughtful engagement with faith.

Julia Abreu | julia@abreu.net

Finance & Operations

Promote fiscal responsibility and align church resources with mission and ministry priorities.

Randy Jozwiakowski | office@kirkwoodpres.org

Church Officer Nominating

Discern and nominate members to serve the congregation as elders and deacons.

Alan Ritter | office@kirkwoodpres.org

Stewardship

Invite generous participation and help the congregation connect giving with faithful ministry.

Joel Wiesehan | office@kirkwoodpres.org

Session

Elected ruling elders make decisions for the local church and serve as spiritual leaders of the congregation.

Tom Edelstein, Clerk | clerk@kirkwoodpres.org

NOT SURE WHO TO CONTACT?

Email office@kirkwoodpres.org and we will connect you.

Arte de Lágrimas

A SACRED ART EXPERIENCE

OCTOBER 30–NOVEMBER 1, 2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF KIRKWOOD

This fall, we 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 experience invites our community into reflection, remembrance, and response.

Through art, guided conversation, and theological reflection, we will consider how this exhibit is calling us—as individuals, as a congregation, and as a broader community—to respond.

◦ SCHEDULE OF EVENTS ◦



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30 — OPENING RECEPTION



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31 — VIEWING HOURS



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 10:00 AM — CLASS



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 3:00 PM — PUBLIC LECTURE

Exhibit open before and after worship on Sunday.

◦ Questions? Contact Rev. Rachel Finken at rfinken@kirkwoodpres.org ◦



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN OF
KIRKWOOD



Your next step can be small.

Scan the code for the Volunteer Discovery Tool, email a ministry contact, or stop by the church office. We will help you find a place to begin.



VOLUNTEER DISCOVERY TOOL

office@kirkwoodpres.org • 314-965-0326

100 E. Adams Ave. • Kirkwood, MO 63122 • kirkwoodpres.org

An updated winter guide - or an Advent companion - will follow before December.