ANNOUNCEMENTS

2027 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

We continue to make progress with the 2027 Stewardship Campaign with 194 households pledging over $892k. For those members who have pledged in the past, we ask you to consider renewing your pledge for 2027. If you have not pledged, please consider showing your support with a pledge this year. Each pledge received allows us to better plan our budget for next year. You may make your 2027 pledge today at https://www.kirkwoodpres.org/pledge-form or through the Realm app.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF KIRKWOOD
TODAY FOLLOWING THE 11AM SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY

Pursuant to the Form of Government G-1.0502, the Session has called a Special Meeting of the Congregation immediately following the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service on Sunday, November 15, 2026, for the purpose of accepting the terms of call for Rev'd Gary Noonan, Senior Pastor and Rev. Rachel Finken, Associate Pastor.

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



DO GOOD CAMPAIGN

Last week the Children, Youth, and Family Committee launched our Do Good Campaign! Our hope is that families will participate in the month of November in a project away from the building that should not take more than two hours of time but will make an impact on the community. Projects are available for pickup today between the services on the windows in the Gathering Space. For information or questions please contact Stephanie (sschmidt@kirkwoodpres.org) or Rob (rmonroe@kirkwoodpres.org).

MIDMONTH MUSIC SERIES

MIDMONTH RECITAL: DAVID SINDEN, ORGANIST

On Wednesday, November 18th, at 12:15 p.m., we welcome David Sinden, Director of Music and Organist at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Ladue. Whether you have 30 minutes to spare over lunch or have been looking for an excuse to hear our organ in full voice, we'd love to have you join us. Can't attend in person? Watch the recital live on our YouTube channel at youtube.com/@FPCKirkwood/streams.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS: ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT AND DINNER



December 13, 2026 at 4:00 pm

Mark your calendars now for the Con Spirito Concert Series annual Christmas Concert! Our Chancel Choir, along with a full orchestra and the magnificent Casavant pipe organ, will present a program centered this year around Tyler Scott Davis's exciting setting of the 'Magnificat', featuring soloist Debra Hillabrand. The Choir will also sing music of the season by Mack Wilberg, Morten Lauridsen, Dan Forrest, and more. The audience will join in singing traditional carols set by Sir John Rutter. Invite your friends and family and join us on Sunday, December 13 at 4:00 pm.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Join us on Sunday, Dec. 13 for the annual Christmas Dinner. Immediately following the 4pm Christmas Concert will be a delicious catered dinner in Fellowship Hall. Make your reservation for the dinner by December 6th by scanning the QR code or using the payment link on the FPC homepage **www.kirkwoodpres.org**. Questions? Contact Rachel Biggs at **rbiggs@kirkwoodpres.org**.

ORDER CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias may be ordered now through Sunday Dec. 13. 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 Rachel Biggs at **rbiggs@kirkwoodpres.org**.

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

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)

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.

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. Pastors Gary and Rachel will lead the final book club discussion of Being Presbyterian in a Dysvangelical America this Wednesday, November 18 at 1 pm in the fellowship hall.

CHRISTIAN CONCERNS CLASS

November 22nd George Durnell will conclude his series on listening and dialogue around the composition *A German Requiem* by Johannes Brahms. For December 6th: Joan VonDras is planning a program on "The ideas for National Medical Insurance programs". For December 13th, Joan is planning a presentation on the plans for "Affordable housing in Kirkwood." We will take a Christmas break from December 20th through January 10th. 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 NEW SERIES

Please join Faith and Fellowship for our new series, Praying Through the Psalms, which will run through December 20. In this class we will explore how we can deepen our prayer lives through this ancient prayer book in the Bible. Please join us Sundays at 10 am in the Fireplace Room.

THANK YOU

We thank Ed and Irene Travis for the beautiful glasses given for use by our worship leaders. Inspired by the colors of our stained-glass windows, this thoughtful gift honors their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

A TASTE OF ADVENT

The first Sunday of Advent is November 29. 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. Cans with pull-tab lids are preferred. Please place your items on the marked carts in Fellowship Hall and near the Welcome Center each Sunday, including Christmas Eve. The food collected will be split between KirkCare and our own Little Food Pantry outside the Jefferson Ave. church entrance. A copy of the calendar is inserted in the announcements. Additional copies will be on the welcome center desk.

FALL CLEANUP IS A SUCCESS

The Buildings and Grounds Committee would like to thank the volunteers that helped clean up the church grounds on November 7. We had more than a dozen folks help with cleaning up gardens, trimming bushes, raking, installing garden borders, weed removal, and prepping for winter. The grounds look great and work completed is greatly appreciated. Thanks to all involved!

YOUNG CHILD SUNDAY SCHOOL

DEC 6TH 10-10:30 – Baby Jesus is Coming - in the Nursery

The Parents & Me style class is for parents and children ages birth - four, and will include 2 opening songs, prayer, story, 2 movement songs to get the wiggles out, and a closing song. There will be scarves, kid instruments, toddler Bibles, puppets, stuffies, and FUN! We will offer optional snacks (Goldfish & applesauce pouches) at the end for those who would like them.

Beyond 12/6, the class will be offered 2 additional times this school year and will be themed -

2/21/27 - Noah's Ark **4/4/27 - The Good Shepherd**

THANK YOU FROM ADULT WORK WEEK PARTICIPANTS

We want to express our deep thanks to you for supporting and enabling our trip this week to Ferncliff Conference Center. We learned much about the wide reach of Ferncliff through its partnerships with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Brethren Volunteer program , Sleep in Heavenly Peace, and a fantastic nature pre-school on the property. We packed disaster assistance kits and school kits, built parts of beds for children without beds, mucked animal pens and tidied up gardens at the conference center, and painted a meeting facility. We felt we made a real difference for several populations. We were enriched to be in the midst of God's creation. We got to know some fantastic staff people. Thank you for this opportunity!

BOOK CLUBS

- **Tuesday Book Club:** *Dispatches from Pluto: Lost and Found in the Mississippi Delta* by Richard Grant on Tuesdays, 10:00-11:00 AM in Fireplace Room. Contact kochkarenp@gmail.com with questions.
- **Wednesday Book Club:** The Road to Tender Hearts by Annie Hartnett on December 2 at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireplace Room and over Zoom. Contact julia@abreu.net for more information.
- **History Book Club**: *Mornings on Horseback* by David McCullough on Thursday, November 19 at 10:30 in Rm 29. Contact gornatir@yahoo.com with questions.

SAVE THE DATES

- **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

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