

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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>.

Sunday School

There is no Sunday School on 11/30



Giving Trees

We are excited to again partner with Lydia's House, a transitional shelter for women and children fleeing from domestic violence. Ornaments are ready to be picked up. Gifts need to be returned to church, unwrapped, on or before December 14th at 10:15 am so that they can be delivered in time for delivery to the shelter. Questions? Contact Rob Monroe at rmonroe@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 1: Introduction and Chapter 1
- Monday, December 8: Chapter 2
- Monday, December 15: Chapter 3
- Monday, December 22: Chapter 4



Buy Book Here

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

Allegro Chorus Concert featuring our Chancel Ringers

Join Allegro Chorus for their annual holiday concert, celebrating Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa and the coming of the winter season, *Songs of the Season*, on **Saturday and Sunday, December 6th & 7th at 3:00 p.m.**

Both concerts will be held in our sanctuary. Special guests this year are our very own Chancel Ringers Handbell Choir, under the direction of Bill Wade.

Allegro's concerts are family friendly and free. We want you all to come and experience the joy of the music we have worked hard to share with you. Click on the EventBrite link below to register your attendance. When you reserve your seats for this concert, please consider a donation to the chorus. A suggestion of \$20/person is encouraged. You may offer a donation through Eventbrite or you may donate in person at the concert.

Please contribute as you are able.

EventBrite Seat Reservation: <https://tinyurl.com/483bdp8s>

Mark Your Calendars for our Annual Christmas Concert and Dinner!

Please make sure you have **Sunday, December 14th, 4:00 pm** on your calendars – the date and time of our Annual Christmas Concert! 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!

Christmas Concert Dinner



Join us on Sunday, Dec. 14! The concert begins at 4:00 p.m. and will be immediately followed by a delicious catered dinner. Make your reservation for the dinner by December 7th by scanning the QR code or using the payment link on the FPC homepage www.kirkwoodpres.org. Questions? Contact Bill Larson at blarson@kirkwoodpres.org

Order Christmas Poinsettias!

Poinsettias may be ordered now through Sunday Dec. 14. 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 Devotionals Available Now!

In preparation for this season of Advent, a group of members, staff and pastors have written short devotionals that have been formatted into a booklet to share. There are a few hard copies available in the lobby or you can view/download the booklet by visiting:

<https://www.kirkwoodpres.org/devotionals2025>.

Questions? Contact Rev. Rachel Finken at rfinken@kirkwoodpres.org. Thank you to all that blessed us with this wonderful spiritual gift for our congregation.

Taste of Advent

The first Sunday of Advent is today! 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 last week, you can pick one up at the Welcome Desk.



Save the Date for Our Annual COOKIE WALK!

December 6th from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the Gathering Space

We will have a room FULL of cookies, brownies, fudges and more for you to walk around and choose your favorites to enjoy later. On the way out we will have scales and will charge per pound. (Students will round down, don't worry!) We will be accepting cash or check and every dollar donated will go toward our Work Camp trip next summer!

Bakers Needed!

Right now we are looking for bakers, candy makers or other Christmas treat makers! Help our students fundraise by bringing in 4-5 dozen of your favorite single-serve treat for us to sell at our annual Cookie Walk Fundraiser! Items will need to be dropped off in advance for preparation for selling by the pound. Scan the QR Code or use this link to sign up to bring treats: <https://bit.ly/48bjFFi>. Questions? Contact Rob Monroe rmonroe@kirkwoodpres.org.

Winter Outreach Winter Clothing & 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 sweat pants are a particular need. Place your donations in the large box opposite the door to the church lounge.

Alternative Gift Market

Please mark your calendars for the annual Alternative Gift Market! It will be held in the Gathering Space during the following times:

- Friday, December 5 from 11:15-11:45
- Saturday, December 6 from 10-12 and 2-4:30, before and after the Allegro Concert
- Sunday, December 7 from 8:45-12:15 and 2-4:30, before and after the Allegro Concert
- Friday, December 12 from 11:15-11:45
- Sunday, December 14 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! Please contact Ashley Force at 760-898-1808 or Sarah Nepple at 314-448-2911 with any questions.

CALLING ALL BAKERS!

Please consider providing 6-12 individual servings of baked goods for the Alternative Gift Market! Please package your items in baggies or small containers and label with the name of the baked good. Bring your items to the Welcome Desk on the day and time you sign up for. Contact Sarah Nepple at 314-448-2911 with any questions. All money raised from the bake sale will be donated to providing food for our Little Free Pantry. Please click on the link below to sign up. Thank you so much for your help!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0449AEA928A6FE3-60500333-alternative#/>

Christian Concerns

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

- **December 7, 14, 21:** the Rev. Hannah Zyla – An advent exploration of the women Jesus loved. . .The Mother, The Tower, The Preacher.

Book Clubs

- **Tuesday Book Club:** The Tuesday Book Club meets each Tuesday in the Fireplace Room from 10:00-11:00 AM. Our discussions through November will be based on *Code Dependent: Living in the Shadow of AI*, by Madhumita Murgia. 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 December 3 at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireplace Room and over Zoom. We will be discussing *The Time of the Child* by Niall Williams. 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.

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.

