From the Pastor

The prophet Isaiah (61:1-3) writes:

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

Lent is a time when we hold before the eyes of our hearts our oppression, our brokenheartedness, the places in our lives where we find ourselves captive or imprisoned. Between the joy of the birth of the Messiah at Christmas and the rising of Christ on Easter morning we find ourselves entering a season where we are encouraged to examine our 'fainting spirit' and our mourning, the places in our soul which seem unredeemed. As sinners saved by grace, Lent is a time when we put the emphasis on our sins, in order to 'prepare the way of the Lord' in our lives and allow God's grace to continue it's work of transforming us into a people ever more faithful. We start the journey through Lent with Ashes on Wednesday and end it waving palms on Sunday.

Peace,

Rev. Dr. Karen Blanchard

We have just recently walked through Christmas and Epiphany and celebrated the birth of Jesus and now suddenly Jesus has become an adult. Lent is almost upon us. It is enough to give one ecclesiasstical whiplash. Nevertheless, Ash Wednesday is coming and the journey of Lent will soon begin. In worship we will add a Psalm and lenten hymns in worship and Friday concerts. I know that Rob Monroe, our Youth Director, is talking with the LOGOS participants about looking at Lent as a time not just to give up or take away something (as in giving up chocolate or some other favorite item), but adding something to one's life such as taking the time or opportunity to reach out or add an act of service. I invite you to consider the same movement—to add and not subtract something during this holy season. Acts of service, times of reflection and study can enrich us. It can enrich us both as individuals and as a congregation in terms of growing in faith and understanding of what the season of Lent means to us as those who are followers of Jesus.

To that end, there will be some devotional materials located on the tables in the main hall near the Welcome Center. On Saturday mornings there will be a discussion group that meets from 9:00a.m. to 10:15a.m. We will look at Cynthia Campbell's book, God's Abundant Table—see more information on page 4. David will also be leading dinner and conversations and a book discussion. Whatever you may decide to do to enrich your Lenten journey, may it be one of growth and new understandings.
February 4, 2018 - 5th Sunday after piphany
Sermon: Respecting Others - The Rev. Dr. David Holyan
Scriptures: Scripture: Mark 1:29-39 and 1 Corinthians 9:16-23
In the passage from 1 Corinthians, Paul talks about being a chameleon in order to offer God’s goodness to whoever he’s in front of. He’s a Jew. He’s a Gentile. He’s weak. He’s strong. Paul is attentive to the person(s) standing before him when he shares the gospel of God, thus changing his message and his means in order for the promises to be heard and accepted by some. The invitation for us is to consider how we might lower our need for self recognition and righteousness in order to offer God’s wholeness to others.

February 11, 2018 - Transfiguration Sunday
Sermon: Radiating Love, Offering Wholeness - The Rev. Dr. David Holyan
Scriptures: Mark 9:2-9 and 2 Corinthians 4:3-6
On this Transfiguration Sunday, we celebrate all the ways music fills our hearts and souls with joy and love. Music Appreciation Sunday acknowledges the diverse richness of our music ministry and the power it has to affirm the gospel we carry within. Just as Jesus is transfigured on the mountain or the light of the gospel radiates in our words and deeds when we trust in God’s goodness, music radiates the glory of the Lord in ways that words can’t, filling us with the light of God’s love.

February 18, 2018 - 1st Sunday in Lent
Sermon: Rythms of Faithfulness - The Rev. Dr. David Holyan
Scriptures: 1 Peter 3:18-22 and Mark 1:9-15
As we begin the season of Lent, a time of reflecting upon the ways we often fall short of God’s deepest desires for us and the world, there is something hopeful in the rhythm of what Jesus goes through: assurance, temptation, then ministry. We must decide: is it a path of linear development we are all called to undertake or is it a rhythm we live through time and again (like the ebb and flow of the tide)? Or maybe the rhythm is different, as Jesus says: “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

February 25, 2018 - 2nd Sunday in Lent
Sermon: Reading Between the Lines - The Rev. Dr. Karen Blanchard
Scriptures: Mark 8:27-38 and Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
The two readings are an interesting contrast. In Genesis, Abraham listens as God makes promises to him and invites him into a covenant and gives them new names. In Mark's gospel Jesus tells them he is going to suffer and the disciples are taken aback. They want a messiah on their terms, not God's terms. They are reminded that this is a God who is willing to send the son to live and move among them. Jesus wants them to have a new understanding of who he is and what it means that God would send him to earth to live among us.

From the Director of Music Ministries
February is the shortest month of the year, but for us it is by no means quiet. February will bring us Music Appreciation Sunday, Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent, Con Spirito's Lenten Recital Series on Fridays, and the AIM Band concert in our sanctuary.

Music Appreciation Sunday will be February 11th. This annual celebration recognizes all those in our congregation who bring us wonderful music every Sunday during the year. Chancel Choir, Praise Team, Chancel Ringers, Church Orchestra, Middle School Ringers, Choristers, Cherubs, our fantastic Music Staff – all play a pivotal role in our ministry of music.

Ash Wednesday is February 14th. Join us for a worship service in the Tree of Life Chapel at 7:00 pm as we mark the beginning of the Lenten season.

The AIM (Association for Instrumental Music) Band concert will be held in our sanctuary on February 25th at 3:00 p.m. This community group, under the direction of Jim Wehrman, plays a concert each year to raise funds for the Kirkwood High School music program.

Blessings to you all,

Bill
**Children’s Ministry**

**Sunday School**
The month of February will bring our Sunday School groups more stories from Mark. Throughout the month we will learn about how Jesus healed a blind man, how he loves the children, and we will finish off with the Great Commandment. These stories have a focus on listening and kindness to others.

**LOGOS**
Our LOGOS kids are already getting things together for the Spring Musical in April! They have just begun practicing the songs for The Tale of the Three Trees and are excited to bring you that story on April 29th.

**LOGOS Themes for February are:**
- February 7 - Lent: Students will discuss things they can add to their lives to be more like Jesus
- February 14 - NO LOGOS (Ash Wednesday)
- February 21 - Olympic Celebration: Games and medals for all!
- February 28 - Chocolate Night: One of our favorites every year!

**Youth Ministry**

**Senior High Fellowship**
We will continue to plan for leading the Arise! service on Sunday, March 11th. We will also start planning for the Work Camp Auction, on April 15th.

Plans are fully in swing for our Work Camp trip this summer to Minnesota. Keep an eye on this space for details about our work as the year goes on!

**Quest (our Confirmation Ministry)**
February is our last month of Quest before students join on Sunday, March 4th! In January we will have visited two other worship experiences, so we will start the month talking about those. We will learn about sacraments of the church and will have an overnight Lock-In where we will craft a class creed to share.

**Middle School Fellowship**
Our Middle Schoolers meet as a part of LOGOS each week. Our 6th-8th grade students learn a bit each week and play lots of (often loud) games together!
SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES

CHRISTIAN CONCERNS LECTURE SERIES: 9:00A.M. in Room 009
February 4-25: Julie Nicolai will present stories of the Underground Railroad and the 19th century path to freedom for escaped slaves. She will talk about the role of safe houses in this area as those escaping made their journey to the “promised land”, the northern US or Canadian border. Other topics will include slave burial sites, the plantation culture in the Little Dixie region of Missouri, symbolic quilts, slave sales, slave hunters, abolitionists, plantation homes and more.

FIREPLACE ROOM SERIES: 10:00a.m. in Room 030
February 4 and 11: Tuning In, Tuning Out, Connecting and Reconnecting. Social media is an important part of life for children and teens. There is new research on technology/social media and teens about how teens both use and abuse tech, as well as how they are forming connections and identity in the digital age. Amy Stark, a licensed social worker and member of the staff of Care and Counseling, will lead us in this discussion about how teens and even younger children are being impacted by social media and how parents can become more aware of and informed about the role it is playing in the lives of our children.

BOOK GROUPS & STUDIES
TUESDAY MORNINGS  9:00a.m. ROOM 029
This group will begin a discussion of some of the writings of Reinhold Niebuhr, a well known theologian, who served on the faculty at Eden Seminary here in St. Louis. His well known works speak to the human condition, public policy and history. We will meet weekly until mid March. If you are interested in a copy of the book, please contact Karen Blanchard at kblanchard@kirkwoodpres.org.

FOURTH WEDNESDAY BOOK GROUP: 1:30P.M., Room 029

THURSDAY NIGHT DINNER & BIBLE STUDY, February 22-March 22
5:30p.m. Gathering Space and Chapel
Join Dr. Holyan on Thursday nights in Lent (February 22 through March 22) for a wonderful homemade dinner at 5:30p.m. and Bible study at 6:10p.m. We will again enjoy great food and fellowship followed by a consideration of the preaching texts for the upcoming Sunday. This is a wonderful time to open to the Spirit and to share in the formation of the Word. We will be finished at 6:53p.m. in order to allow choir members who wish to participate time to get downstairs for choir practice.

LENTEN STUDIES
Saturdays, February 17, 24, March 3, 10 & 17
9:00a.m - 10:15a.m.
If you were to take a walk (a long, studious walk) through the Bible, you might be surprised to find that the words about eating and bread far outnumber the times words are about praying and prayer. Luckily for me, I have concordance and the internet, and together they quickly revealed that the numbers are something like 943 times that we read about the words eating and bread to 520 for use of the words pray, prays and prayer (and one would also be right to assume that the praying words were often used in connection with a meal.) That is essentially the focus of Cynthia Campbells's book, God's Abundant Table. Cynthia Campbell is a Presbyterian minister who has served both as a professor and as a pastor. Her Lenten study reminds us that hospitality, having enough to eat, the building of relationships and breaking bread together are all central to Jesus' teachings and ministry and the gift and meaning of the Lord's Supper. If you are interested in this series please contact the church office to order a copy of the book.

Wednesdays, February 21-March 21
9:00a.m. Room 029
Join Dr. Holyan on 5 successive Wednesdays in Lent for a consideration of Wayne Muller's, How Then Shall We Live? In this book, Muller examines four questions: Who am I? What do I love? How shall I live knowing I will die? What is my gift to the family of the earth? Through reading and discussion, we will explore what it means for us to be alive at this time and how to live intentionally as a people called by God to share our gifts with our neighbors in order to be a part of a more just and loving community of faith. Please contact Paula in the office (paulab@kirkwoodpres.org) to sign up. Books will be available for purchase and to pick up in the office starting February 14th.
In August 2016 a steady deluge of rain fell for 39 straight hours, delivering as much as two feet of rainfall across South Louisiana. It caught nearly everyone completely off guard. Thousands of homes were flooded in the area known as “Acadiana”.

Kirkwood Pres volunteers have traveled to many disaster areas, and worked last April in Lafayette, LA on flood-ravaged homes. Unfortunately, last August, Lafayette suffered additional damage by Hurricane Harvey. Our Volunteer Mission Team plans to return this April to assist flood survivors.

Our team will be staying at The First Presbyterian Church of Lafayette and will work with “Rebuilding Together Acadiana” to rebuild homes. We’re looking for volunteers to join us. Because Lafayette is about 11 hours away, we plan to arrive on April 15, in time for our work dates of April 16-20. We plan to return to St Louis on April 21.

Please contact mission trip leaders Liz McCane (lizmccane@gmail.com), 314 965 2709, Linda Jarrett (write4you@sbcglobal.net), 314-956-8386, or Georgina Sikorski (gwsikorski@gmail.com), 678-644 -2782 for more information. Thank you!

Barbecue-To-Go Mission Trip Fundraiser - March 4, 2018

Wouldn’t it be great if someone else prepared a yummy barbecue meal for you and your family/friends? Well, guess what. Your wish is our command.

Our Mission team is planning to return Louisiana, from April 15-21, 2018 to help flood survivors rebuild their homes. To support the mission trip, we are having a barbecue-to-go fundraiser. With the guidance and support of Craig Wilde, chef extraordinaire, we will be preparing a delicious assortment of barbecue items including pulled pork, smoked beef brisket, smoked chicken, sides, and brownies for dessert. All you have to do is select the items you want ahead of time by completing the order form at the Mission barbecue table in the front hallway starting February 11 and then pick your order(s) up following any of the services on March 4.

English Citizenship Tutors Needed

Bilingual International Assistant Services (BIAS) is in need of men and women volunteer tutors to help refugee clients pass their citizenship test in English. The time commitment is one hour during the day or early evening, one or two times a week, in the client’s home. Training, materials, and ongoing supervision are provided. If you are interested, willing, and able to “Welcome the Stranger,” or if you would like more information, please contact: Elise Silvestri, Citizenship Educator, Bilingual International Assistance Services at elisesilvestri10@gmail.com or call 314-707-0887.
**BREAKFAST CLUB**
The Breakfast Club will kick off the New Year with guest speaker Frank Darr, member and Deacon of our church. Frank is responsible for live streaming the 11:00a.m. service on the Internet. Come hear the details! Mark your calendar for Thursday, February 1, 8:00a.m. in the Fireplace Room! Bring a friend!

**Meal-A-Month Items**
Canned Tuna, Macaroni & Cheese, Canned Peas, Stewed Tomatoes, Canned Pears
Optional: Soup

**Prime Timers**
Join us on Friday, February 23 at 10:00a.m. at the St. Louis Art Museum. We will have a docent-led tour followed by a delicious lunch in The Panorama Restaurant around noon. Please sign up at the table near the welcome desk so we can let the Museum and restaurant know how many to expect. Those who wish to car-pool can leave the church lot at 9:30a.m. For more information contact Nancy Magnuson at jnmag1@att.net or (314) 842-2933.

**Dementia Discussion Group**
The Dementia Discussion Group meets every 3rd Saturday at 10:00a.m. downstairs in room 028. The next meeting is Saturday, February 17. If you have any questions, contact Alice Bowen: asquare812@hotmail.com or Angela Gracey: anggracey@msn.com.

**Grief Support Group**
The next Grief Support Group will meet on Tuesday, February 27, 7:00p.m. - 8:30p.m. in the lounge. For more information contact Ellen Hitschler at ln4cats@yahoo.com or Mary Ann Shaw at mashaw5@sbcglobal.net.

**Security Plan: Update**
We are in the process of writing up a security plan, evaluating (and potentially upgrading) our existing video surveillance, and recruiting and training a Sunday Morning Security Team. **If you are interested in volunteering for the Sunday morning team, please contact Dr. Holyan at dholyan@kirkwoodpres.org.** Our goal is to have a plan and team in place by Easter Sunday, April 1.

**How to Give to the Church in Your Will**
Since the article I wrote that was in the January Pres, which mentioned the new Support Funds (Maintenance, Ministry, and Music), several people have asked, “How do I give to the church in my will?” The answer is really simple.

If you want to give money, have your attorney add the following to your will with the specific amount of your gift. In this example, the person desires to give $100,000.

```
I give and bequeath to First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood, presently located at 100 East Adams, St. Louis, Missouri 63122, one-hundred thousand dollars ($100,000.00).
```

If you want to give a percent of your estate to the church, say 20% as an example, have your attorney add the following phrase.

```
I give and bequeath to First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood, presently located at 100 East Adams, St. Louis, Missouri 63122, 20 percent (20%) of the remainder of my estate.
```

And if you want to give specific stocks or other assets, like real estate, have your attorney add the following to your will.

```
I give and bequeath to First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood, presently located at 100 East Adams, St. Louis, Missouri 63122, 200 shares of Amazon.com stock, 400 shares of Vanguard Wellington Mutual Fund, or my house at 100 W. Smith Drive, Kirkwood, MO, 63122.
```

As you can see, it is easy to give to the church through your estate. Simply decide what you’d like to give and then give your attorney a call. If you have any questions talk to Dr. Holyan or Jane Meppiel in the office. Please consider adding the church to your estate plans.

**Registration for The Children's Center**
Registration for The Children's Center is open to church families on February 5. Classes are offered for children ages 15 months to pre-K. Registration forms can be found outside the Children's Center office or downloaded from the website: www.firstpreschildrenscenter.com. Contact Sherry Peters, Director at 965-4028 if you have any questions or for more information.
### February 2018

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<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>9:05 AM Arise! Contemporary Worship</td>
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<td>7:00 PM Worship, Music, &amp; Arts</td>
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### 3 R’s of Waste Hierarchy

The 3 R’s of waste hierarchy can reduce the amount of waste generated and improve the waste management processes. Reduce what is produced and what is consumed and help reduce the amount of waste that is generated. Reuse items for different purposes instead of disposing of them. Recycle items like aluminum cans, plastic, paper, and glass that can be shaped into new items.
CHURCH STAFF

David A. Holyan, Pastor
Karen Blanchard, Associate Pastor
Tom Glenn, Parish Associate
Bill Stein, Director of Music Ministries
Travis Evans, Music Associate
Rob Monroe, Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries
Paige Misselhorn, Children’s Ministry Assistant
Sherry Peters, Director, First Presbyterian Children’s Center
Paula Bujewski, Office Administrator
Jane Meppiel, Financial Coordinator
Donnell “Dee” Robinson, Head Custodian
Brian Clay, Custodian

KIRKWOOD PRES 2018, Issue 2
First Presbyterian Church
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POSTAGE PAID, ST. LOUIS, MO.
POSTMASTER: Send Address Change to:
The Kirkwood Pres, 100 East Adams Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63122-4093
www.kirkwoodpres.org