From the Pastors

The Rev. Dr. Karen Blanchard, Associate Pastor

This morning at 5:39 the birds awoke me. Light had come around the edges of night and the birds wanted to make sure we knew that. I heard a great variety of birds and was amazed at the many different calls and trills that are shared by birds as they begin their day. There are so many sounds each one is unique.

As one who admittedly finds the darkness of the winter season a challenge, the gift of Spring into summer of being seasons one filled with light offers me a sense of deeper energy and anticipation. It also wakes me up earlier!

As summer approaches the light increases. Sunlight is the source that brings forth the bounty of the fields, in our gardens, opportunities for fellowship and family time. We are outside later and enjoy times sitting on the porch or outside for picnics and sports. Light brings with it energy, growth and new life.

We are reminded of the power and gift of the light in our faith too. We have celebrated the gift of Easter and move toward Pentecost. The child born in darkness was found by the light of a star. The man who gave his life overcame death and the darkness of the tomb. Paul was felled when a light burst forth around him and he had a vision that called him into a life of evangelism. And soon we come to Pentecost (often called the birthday of the church) with its promises of the light of understanding amongst different people. And so we too are called to seek understanding and be the light of Christ in the world. May we share the light of our love into the world with the joy and celebration of the season of Pentecost and the birth of the Church.

With joy,
Karen

Steadfastness and Encouragement

As I go to find a suitable passage to quote in order to share my total appreciation for the job the church staff has done as we come to the close of the program year, I find Romans 15:5-6. It is my acknowledgment for the work Karen, Bill, Rob, Travis, Paula, Jane, Dee, Colleen, and Sherry have done this past year. They have clearly come together in “...one voice glorify(ing) the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ”.

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. -Romans 15:5-6

As is my custom, I check the Greek to see what other translation options are open. Upon doing so, I once again stumble upon my favorite word in the NT: hupomoné – as Paul prays to a God of (hupomoné) perseverance, endurance, patience and (paraclysis) encouragement, comfort, consolation – translated “steadfastness and encouragement” in the NRSV. The message about persevering and encouraging keeps finding me. While I was on retreat after Easter, Romans 5:3-5 spoke to me: “...we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance (hupomoné), and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.” It seems everywhere I look, whether the mesas of NW New Mexico or the quiet of my morning study on Rochdale Dr. in Kirkwood, the Spirit is drawing me to contemplate the perseverance of God and ourselves, especially the church staff, in the work of glorifying God.

So as we enter the 'final stretch' of this program year, culminating with two wonderful celebrations of 50 year anniversaries (Work Camp and Church Members) please join me in thanking the church staff for all the ways they encourage each of us to be faithful and glorify God. And pray that we all may continue to “...live in harmony with one another.”

Peace,
David

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays, June 2-August 11, there will be one combined service at 10:00a.m. in the sanctuary.
A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

June 2, 2019 - 7th Sunday of Easter
Sermon: “Completely One”   - The Rev. Dr. David Holyan
Scriptures: Rev. 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21 and John 17:20-26
In the 17th chapter of the Gospel of John we learn that God's love resides within all of us. Jesus' prayer reveals his desire that all of us live our lives grounded in the goodness and blessings of God and allow that goodness and blessing to fill us so that we might shine with God's glory in the world. As we wrap up the season of Easter, may all of us trust the resurrecting power of God's goodness and blessing that shines in us.

June 9, 2019 - Day of Pentecost
Sermon: “Life-Changing Peace”   - The Rev. Dr. David Holyan
A promise of Pentecost is that the Holy Spirit lives within us and within our community of faith. Pentecost is a time to celebrate the spirit that abides within each of us. Pentecost is a time to deepen our trust in the ways the Holy Spirit is at work within us and through us. Maybe most importantly, Pentecost is a time to acknowledge how the Holy Spirit is at work within our neighbors, and thank God we are not alone in our work toward goodness.

June 16, 2019 - Trinity Sunday
Sermon: “Love One Another”   - The Rev. Dr. Karen Blanchard
Scriptures:   Proverbs 8: 1-4, 22-32 and John 16: 12-15
The focus this week is on the Trinity. We read of Wisdom, one who was there at the beginning of all creation. We are reminded by this that God is One, and yet part of the Trinity. The Trinity is thus intrinsically about community. This is an inexplicable and intriguing image for us to consider. Wisdom is described as a source of joy and life, the source of truth and a presence in the making of creation and life. Wisdom moves among us. How do we open our hearts to it and discern the wisdom offered to us?

June 23, 2019 - 2nd Sunday after Pentecost
Sermon: “Celebrating Our Unity In Christ”   - The Rev. Dr. David Holyan
In this passage from Galatians, Paul explains the role of the law in the lives of the faithful: to be a disciplinarian until Christ comes. This means that for us, who believe in Christ, there is no more law. Now there is only freedom and unity: we are one in Christ Jesus. In this sermon we will explore the basic 'Exodus-narrative' of Christ's ministry, the movement from bondage to freedom, and the way Christ-freedom leads to the erosion of barriers between people.

June 30, 2019 - 3rd Sunday after Pentecost
Sermon: “The Freedom To Do Good”   -The Rev. Dr. David Holyan
In this passage in Galatians, Paul catalogues the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These are the characteristics of a life lived in the freedom and assurance of God's love. We will examine how these traits of faith can be cultivated and the power they have to transform lives, ours and our neighbors.

From the Director of Music Ministries

A late Easter means the “choir season” runs late as well. The Chancel Choir sings through Pentecost Sunday (June 9th this year) and I am grateful for the beautiful music this dedicated group brings to our worship each week. I wish them a happy and restful summer, and we look forward to your return after Labor Day.

I am excited about our first Handbell Festival on June 8th! Travis Evans has been hard at work organizing this day long event. Please read his article on page 4 and learn more about it.

During the first two Sundays in June we will honor the 50th anniversary of Work Camp and recognize our 50 year members in worship. What an incredible blessing for us!

May these weeks of summer bring you rest, refreshment, peace, and joy.

Faithfully Yours,

Bill
**Church Picnic - June 2nd!**
Families - join us for the Church Potluck Picnic following the 10:00a.m. worship service on June 2nd. We will be using the Sugar Creek and Lyons Pavilions near the tennis courts. The Hospitality Committee is providing hot dogs and drinks - please bring something to share!

The Children, Youth and Family Committee will bring some big games, but we also encourage you to bring your favorites, too!

You can RSVP by signing up outside of the Lounge at church or by emailing Rob, who will pass the info along!

**Youth In Action Drive THANKS!**
Wanted to use this space to say a big THANK YOU to everyone that donated for our collections of both Birthday Bags and Summer Foods for Youth in Action of Kirkwood this spring. Our collected items will be combined with things gathered at other churches to help be sure that youth in the Kirkwood School District boundary are fed this summer while school is out.

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**Camp Kirkapresqua**
We are looking forward to a full house for Camp K this month! We are using a classic curriculum from 2011 - Shake it Up Cafe! We are set on volunteers and supplies right now, but you can help by saying a quick prayer for our campers and leaders for safety, fun and learning while we are at camp the week of June 3rd!

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**Work Camp Shares**
We have one more opportunity to support the Work Camp trip to the Washington, DC, Region in July - Work Camp Shares! When you buy shares for $15 (or more) you receive:
- a handwritten letter from a student on Work Camp
- a photo of the group from the trip
- an invitation to our Shareholders Dessert on 8/4

Students will be selling Shares on Sunday mornings before and after worship on June 2, 9 and 16. You can also stop by and see Rob at church during the week if that is more convenient!

Thank you for your support of our students!

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**2019-2020 Calendar for Children, Youth and Family!**
The slower days of summer are nice, but know that we are already taking a crack at making next year even better! As you are laying out your calendar for next year we wanted to be sure you have our dates on first! More information will come as we get into the program year in the fall.

**August**
18- Senior High Fellowship - 7:00-8:30 weekly on Sundays

**September**
4 - Taste of LOGOS - 6:00-7:00p.m.
8 - Sunday School starts - 10:00-11:00a.m. weekly on Sundays
11 - LOGOS Starts - 4:00-7:00p.m. - weekly on Wednesdays

**October**
4-6- Senior High Retreat to Mound Ridge
26- Church-Wide Hay Ride at Queeny Park
27- Work Camp Chili Cook Off - 5:30-7:00

**November**
10 - Family Game Afternoon - 3:00-5:00p.m.

**December**
8 - Imaginary Theater Production - 2:00p.m.

**January**
5 - Church-Wide Movie Night
10-11 - SHF Snow Tubing Lock-In

**February**
29 - Family Leap Day Activity - 10:00-1:00p.m.

**April**
5 - Work Camp Auction - 5:30-8:30p.m.

**May**
1-2 - SHF Spring Retreat to Mound Ridge
3 - Sunday School Celebration

**June**
1-5 - Camp Kirkapresqua
7 - Church Picnic - 11:30-1:00

**July**
11-25 - Work Camp 2020 (Location TBA)
SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES

SPIRITUAL FORMATION CLASS - 9:30a.m. in Room 028
The Spiritual Formation series focuses on deepening the stillness of the heart through prayer, meditation, study and reflection. Tom Edelstein leads this group, which will continue to meet during the summer on the second Sunday of the month at 9:30a.m. in room 028. If you have any questions please contact Tom at tedelstein@att.net or Karen Blanchard at kblanchard@kirkwoodpres.org.

SUMMER BOOK DISCUSSION
While the fourth Wednesday book group will be on summer hiatus, we will gather for one summer event on Wednesday, July 17 at 1:30 in Room 029. We will discuss the book Where the Crawdads Sing, by Delia Owens. This book is a powerful story about those who are considered "the other". A young girl named Kya, who lives in the Marshland areas of the Carolinas, observes the gifts of nature that are unique to the area. It becomes both her sanctuary and her means of survival. It is the story of how one who has been been so isolated from others, finally learns how to trust and to love.

Join us for the Annual Church Picnic on Sunday, June 2 following the combined 10:00a.m. worship service at the Sugar Creek and Lyons pavilion in Kirkwood Park for a picnic lunch and games. Work Camp 50th reunion attendees will also be there, so it will be a good time to catch up with many! The Hospitality Committee will provide hot dogs, water and lemonade. Sign up today to attend and bring a side dish or dessert to share so that we have food for many! See you there!

You are invited to attended a Taize Prayer Service in celebration of Pentecost on Sunday, June 9, 7-8pm at the Mercy Center. This format of worship originated with an ecumenical Protestant and Catholic monastery in France with members from over 30 countries. The simple and beautiful chant music of the Taizé service focuses on peace and justice and the repetitive nature of the chanted prayer can promote a kind of inner unity of the person. Silence is also a fundamental part of the Taizé service. The Mercy Conference Center is located at 2039 N. Geyer Rd. 63131. Visit www.mercycenterstl.org for more information.

Music Opportunities – June 2019

June 8: Our First Annual Handbell Festival (see article below)
June 24: A Little Lunch Music presented by Opera Theatre St. Louis, 12:30p.m. in the sanctuary

Mark your calendars for this year's Notes@9!
Half hour concerts in the sanctuary every Sunday morning in July at 9:00 am!

Handbell Festival, June 8
This last year we had our handbells refurbished, and through the generosity of Tom and Judy Roberts, we acquired a new five octave set of handchimes. We’ve added a second adult bell choir this fall and decided last year to host a festival this summer. It will be a day of ringing, learning, and fellowship. On Saturday, June 8th we will have several local handbell choirs with approximately 60 ringers joining us for the day. Dr. John Behnke from Milwaukee, Wisconsin will be our guest clinician, and has over 400 handbell compositions and arrangements in print. At the conclusion of the festival at 3:00p.m., there will be a little concert of the music the groups will have learned during the course of the day. You are welcome to come and listen to the concert. If you are interested in handbells, we have a few open spots in our two adult handbell choirs for this fall. Please let me know if you’d like to join us by calling the church office or email me at tevans@kirkwoodpres.org.

Travis Evans,
Music Associate
ANNUAL SUMMER FOOD DRIVE

Summer is here and the schools are closed for the summer recess. While for many it is a time for vacation and camps, for other students there is a need for food to replace the lunches and breakfasts provided at school during the year. To that end, the Deacons are having a Summer Food Drive for KirkCare, focusing on lunch and breakfast foods. Non-perishable foods such as:

- low sugar breakfast cereals,
- peanut butter and jellies in non-breakable containers
- canned tuna, chicken, ham,
- soups, boxed mac and cheese,
- applesauce or fruit in small containers

All of these items will provide nutrition during the summer months.

Please place items in the big yellow school bus in the hallway at church. You may also put a check in the offering plate made out to the church, earmarked for “KirkCare” or go to www.kirkcare.org and make a donation directly.

In addition, KirkCare needs plastic bags and large paper grocery bags for distributing foods. A box will be near the school bus to receive clean bags to give to KirkCare.

Thank you for your support of those who otherwise might be hungry during the summer months.

AND...

If you find yourself with small unused shampoos, soap and conditioners and the like from your hotel stays, bring them to church and put them in the box near the Welcome Center beginning in June. These toiletry items will be given to both Room at the Inn for our guests and also to KirkCare for distribution.

OTHER DEACON DOINGS

At our most recent meeting in May, the Deacons heard from Harriet Patton and two other board members from the Meacham Park Neighborhood Association about their summer event for the children and youth of neighborhood. This August event will feature games, prizes, food, fellowship and a distribution of back packs and school supplies to be given out at the event. The Board voted to give $375 from the Deacon's Fund and $375 from our portion of the Peacemaking Offering for local programs to support this important event.

Making Connections

Within our congregation there are a number of people who are unable to worship with us. While some join us for worship through live streaming, there are still other ways we can help them feel connected to our church family. We have members teams who bring home communion to them. Others from the Deacon's Homebound team send cards for birthdays and Christmas and oversee the creation of the Advent Bags. But there are still more ways to keep connected. If you are willing to visit with one of our members periodically, maybe once a month, either face to face or over the phone, we would love to have you involved. It is a very simple, yet powerful way to help those unable to be with us to feel connected. Please contact Karen Blanchard kblanchard@kirkwoodpres.org or Jim Boal at jboal419@gmail.com and we will get you connected with someone who will appreciate a friendly voice or presence.

Celebration of 50-Year Members

This year’s recognition of our Golden Members will be held at the 10:00a.m. service on Sunday, June 9th. The church software is able to identify those who have been part of this congregation continuously since 1969, but it does not recognize those who have left and returned that may have a combined membership of fifty years. If you think that situation may apply to you, please contact Paula in the church office at paulab@kirkwoodpres.org or (314) 965-0326, so we can check earlier records and get a complete list. Thanks!
The Dementia Discussion Group will meet at 10:00 a.m. downstairs in room 028 on Saturday, June 15. If you have any questions, contact Alice Bowen: asquare812@hotmail.com or David Evans: davidevansma@yahoo.com.

The Grief Support Group will meet Tuesday, June 25, 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. in the lounge. For more info contact Ellen Hitschler at ln4cats@yahoo.com or Mary Ann Shaw at mashaw5@sbcglobal.net.

The Prime Timers are taking a break for the summer. There will be a meeting in August to plan for the 2019-2020 season of activities. Stay tuned for the meeting date and time.

First Pres men of all ages are invited to join us Saturdays at 10:45 a.m. in Room 029. All men are welcome, no matter your knowledge of scripture or where you are in your faith journey. We take turns reading aloud, ask questions, discuss what the Holy Spirit might be saying, and even share in laughter. Call Robert Trottmann at 314-909-6779 with any questions.

In an effort to keep our contact info up to date, please let us know if you no longer have a land line, have a new cell number and/or new email address. Contact Paula at paulab@kirkwoodpres.org so that we can keep you “in the (information) loop.” Thank you.

PRAYER SHAWLS
Members of our congregation have made prayer shawls that are available for anyone to take to or mail to someone in their time of illness or need of support. The shawls are soft and provide both physical and emotional warmth for those who are going through illness or a difficult time. They come with a note that explains that it was made by those who offer them as a gift of comfort. If you would like to pick one up, contact the church office for a time to come by to select from available shawls stored in our office.

The Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support young people, and addresses the needs of at-risk children. This year, 40% of the Offering will be directed to the Meacham Park SPROG Summer Program and Camp David of the Ozarks. SPROG provides transformative programs and experiences for youth, and Camp David of the Ozarks supports families of the incarcerated. The remaining 60% is used to support ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Special envelopes will be in the pews during worship on Sunday, June 2 and 9. Please give as generously as you are able. Thank you.
RECYCLING TIPS FOR PLASTICS

Prepare plastic containers for recycling by ensuring first that they marked with one of the following recycling codes:

- #1 (PETE): soda-pop bottles, cooking-oil bottles and peanut-butter jars
- #2 (HDPF): milk, water and juice bottles, bleach and detergent bottles, margarine tubs and some grocery sacks
- #3 (PVC): window cleaner bottles, cooking-oil containers and detergent powder containers
- #4 (LDPE): food packaging, shrink-wrap, carryout bags and heavy-duty bags
- #5 (PP): butter and margarine tubs, yogurt containers, screw-on caps and drinking straws
- #6 (PS): often incorrectly referred to as foam cups or packing materials, the category includes cutlery and plates, foam coffee cups, egg cartons, meat trays and yogurt containers
- #7 (Other): squeezable syrup and condiment bottles and some microwave food trays

**NOTE:** Some recycle centers only accept #1, #2, and #5.

*These identification codes are often on the bottom of the plastic container encircled by three chasing arrows. Remove plastic tops from the plastic containers being recycled and rinse containers with water.*

### June 2019

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<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>5:00 PM Music Instr.</td>
<td>9:00 AM Camp Sunshine</td>
<td>6:00 PM Handbell Festival Rehearsal</td>
<td>9:00 AM Camp Sunshine</td>
<td>7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<td>10:00 AM Combined Worship</td>
<td>1:15 PM Staff Meeting</td>
<td>7:00 PM Worship, Music, and Arts</td>
<td>7:15 PM Board of Deacons</td>
<td>1:30 PM Camp K Firetruck Visit</td>
<td>1:00 PM Knitting Group</td>
<td>8:00 PM Building &amp; Grounds</td>
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<td>11:30 AM Church Picnic</td>
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<td>9:00 AM New Member/Visitor Gathering</td>
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<td>7:00 PM Sr. High Fellowship</td>
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<td>First Day of Summer</td>
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<td>7:00 PM Grief Support Group</td>
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