



Kirkwood
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE LAMPLIGHTER FEBRUARY 2020



From the Pastor

IN THIS ISSUE...

From the Pastor	1
Women's Bible Study Book Club	2
WEBS Adult Christian Ed	3
Kids Helping Kids S.O.M.E. Souper Bowl Annual Meeting	4
Parents' Night Out Lay Reader Training KFFL Champion	5
PNC Update Thanksgiving Update Giving Tree Update	6
Birthdays Anniversaries Prayer Requests March Deadline	7
Winter Weather ECHO Reminder Mission Thanks	8

Dear Friends,

A year ago we began our journey together when I started serving Kirkwood as Interim Pastor. Since then we've elected a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) whose work is now underway in the search for Kirkwood's next pastor.

While the PNC continues its work on behalf of the congregation, the church's ministry also continues as the session, deacons, and members of the church engage in worship, education, fellowship, outreach, and all the ministries which God has entrusted to us. While this is a sort of "in between time," in the life of the church, it isn't a waiting time. The familiar metaphor of the Church as the Body of Christ--with Jesus as the head of the Church--illustrates how each person is integral to the life of God's people -- "Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it." (1 Cor. 12:27)

Related to the concept of the church as the Body of Christ is the doctrine of the "Priesthood of Believers," drawn from biblical passages including 1 Peter 2:9. Linking the concepts of priesthood and covenant, theologian Peter Toon suggests understanding the doctrine, "as highlighting the corporate privilege and responsibility of the believing people of God of the new covenant. As a body, they offer spiritual sacrifice and prayers to God and commend God in Christ to the world. Thus each congregation of faithful believers is to act as a priesthood, being a microcosm of the whole church."

In this congregation of faithful believers at Kirkwood, God's mission is seen in all the many ways that God's love is shared with each other, with the community, and with the world. We are blessed to be called by God to this work, and it is my privilege to be with you all during this interim time.

Grace and peace,
Susan

Happy Valentine's Day!

*"God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God,
and God abides in them."*

1 John 4:16b



Presbyterian Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study is currently studying *Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments*.

What would it mean to consider the Ten Commandments not as a harsh list of what not to do but, instead, as a "love letter" from a loving God? A fresh embrace of the Ten Commandments (or Words), author Eugenia Gamble suggests, may ultimately contribute to the restoration of ourselves and our communities and the furthering of the gospel in the world. "Moral behavior matters, not simply because immoral actions can anger or disappoint God, but because principled behavior is how love becomes real, both toward God and in community." *Love Carved in Stone* is a Bible study that helps us reframe the way we look at and live in the world.

We welcome all women of Kirkwood to join us for fellowship and discussion of *Love Carved in Stone* on **Thursday, February 20, at 10:30 am** in the church conference room.

For more information, contact Sandy Webster at 703-455-0122.

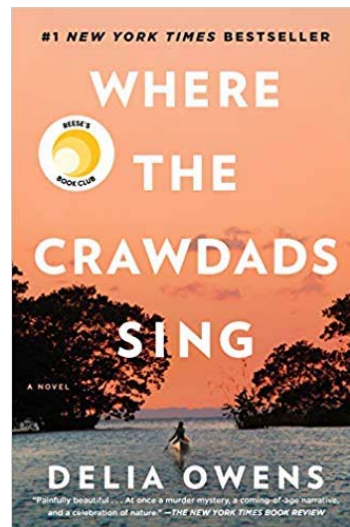
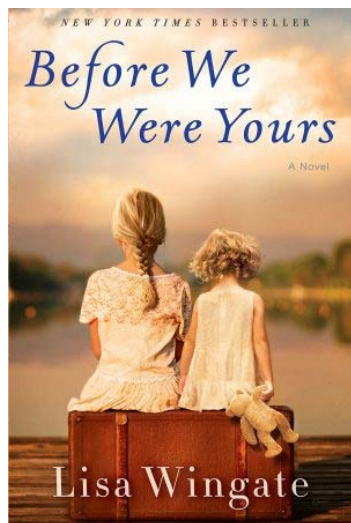


Book Club

Come join us **Sunday, February 23, at 12:30 pm** in the Kirkwood parlor for a discussion about *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate.

Based on one of America's most notorious real-life scandals—in which Georgia Tann, director of a Memphis-based adoption organization, kidnapped and sold poor children to wealthy families all over the country—Lisa Wingate's riveting, wrenching, and ultimately uplifting tale reminds us how, even though the paths we take can lead to many places, the heart never forgets where we belong.

The March meeting will be Sunday, March 29, at 12:30 pm when we'll discuss *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens. All are welcome! Contact Pam Johnson with questions at 703-906-9035.



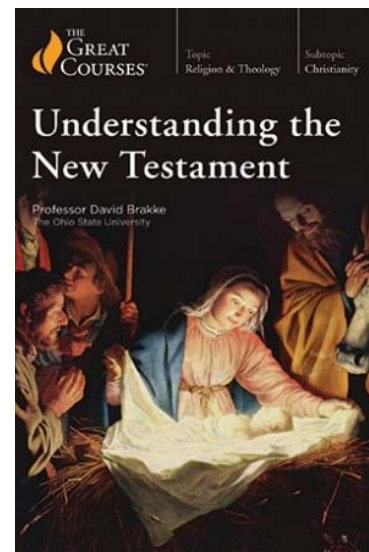
Wednesday Evening Bible Study (WEBS) Wednesdays at 7:30 pm

WEBS has started a new study “Understanding the New Testament,” 24 video lectures by David Brakke, Professor of History and Christianity at Ohio State University.

Having just finished a series on Jesus’ life and his transforming mission, we decided to pursue and explore the diversity of Christianity’s canonical text. The New Testament is comprised of 27 different books “by more than a dozen authors, each of whom has a different perspective and is responding to a different set of historical circumstances.”

Everyone is invited to join us each Wednesday evening at 7:30 pm in the conference room to discover how Christian practices developed; how the institution of the Church evolved; how conflicts of belief were debated; and how the church's understanding of Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah evolved over time.

For more information, contact Doug Amon at DLA100@aol.com.



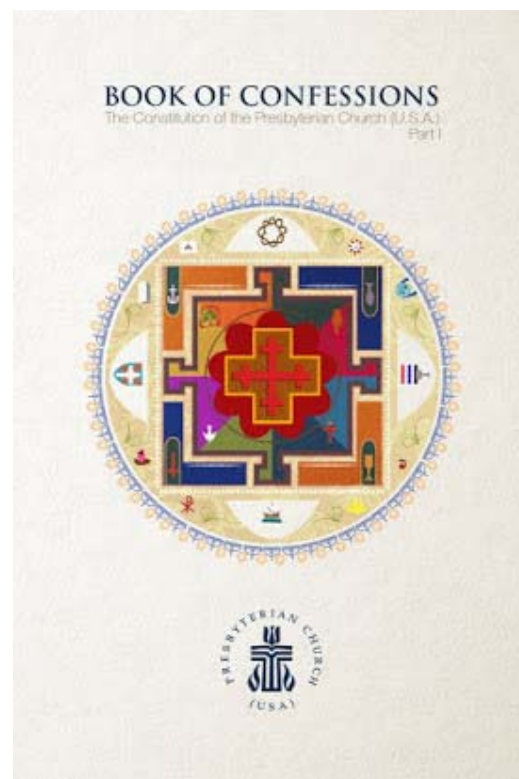
Adult Christian Education Sundays at 9:45 am

"Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?"

The quotation above is one of nine questions posed to every person ordained in the PC(USA)—not just to those becoming “teaching elders” (pastors), but also to every deacon and every ruling elder. Many of us (myself included) who have agreed to serve as officers and subsequently accepted ordination, have had to admit they responded “I do and I will” in good faith, and sincerely planning to be the best officer they could be... but also without fully understanding what they were agreeing to.

Our next adult CE class aims to fill the gaps in our knowledge. By popular demand, current class members requested a course to study our PC(USA) Book of Confessions. We’ll take an informal path through the book, skipping around as needed to see how our understanding has evolved through the years, and how our arm of the Church has responded: “In these statements the church declares to its members and to the world who and what it is, what it believes, and what it resolves to do. These statements identify the church as a community of people known by its convictions as well as by its actions.” [PC(USA) Book of Order, F-2.01]

The class began on January 19 and we anticipate it will continue until we move into our summer schedule. All are welcome—please join us! ~Pat Futato



Kids Helping Kids

All kids of Kirkwood, get ready to help assemble weekend food packs for hungry students at Newington Forest Elementary in the Fellowship Hall following worship on **Sunday, February 16**.

Donations of boxed mac & cheese, ramen noodles, instant oatmeal, canned chicken or tuna, cheese and crackers, and granola bars are always welcome.

Label your items *Kids Helping Kids* and place them in the ECHO box in the narthex or bring them with you to the Fellowship Hall.



So Others Might Eat

S.O.M.E. Sandwich Making



This month's making of sandwiches to feed the homeless will be in Fellowship Hall after worship on **Sunday, February 16**. Donations of bologna and sliced cheese are welcome and should be placed in the kitchen refrigerator.

Please come and join others who are giving of their time to relieve hunger in our metropolitan area.

For more information, contact Kristin Arnold at coachkris89@gmail.com.

Souper Bowl of Caring

The Mission Committee invites you to generously support this year's Souper Bowl of Caring Offering which will be received on **Sunday, February 2**. The Souper Bowl of Caring, which was started by a youth group in 1990, has grown all over the world mobilizing local communities and faith groups to fight hunger and poverty in their local communities.

Your generous gifts to this year's Souper Bowl Offering at Kirkwood will go to support our ongoing mission to "Kids Helping Kids," not only funding our current efforts, but hopefully making it possible to expand this opportunity to ensure that more of the most needy children in our community receive weekend food packs.

Regardless of whether the Chiefs or 49ers win the Super Bowl, we are all winners when we give generously to care for and feed hungry children. Offerings can be made by cash or check payable to Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, with "Souper Bowl" in the memo section.



Annual Congregational and Corporate Meeting

The Session has called the Annual Congregational and Corporate Meeting for **Sunday, February 9, 2020**, after the 11:00 am worship service for the purposes of receiving the 2019 Annual Report and the 2020 budget, electing a member to the PNC on the recommendation of the Church Nominating Committee, and receiving an update from the PNC.



CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

Parents' Night Out

Parents - The Christian Education Committee is excited to announce Parents' Night Out. Mark your calendars for **Friday, February 28, from 5:00 - 8:00 pm**. We are happy to offer a night of fun for your kids in Fellowship Hall—including dinner, a movie, and games—while you enjoy a night out.

If you have any questions, please contact Carin Hickey (carin.hickey@gmail.com). Advance sign-up is required — email Carin or register on the sign up sheet in the Commons Area.



Lay Reader Training

All current and aspiring Lay Readers are invited to a training session on **Saturday, February 1, from 10:00 to 11:00 am** in the sanctuary.

This will be a refresher for seasoned Lay Readers as well as a time for those who have not served in this capacity to explore whether it might be something you'd like to do.

For more information or to RSVP for the session, contact Pastor Susan at pastor@kirkwoodpres.com or Pat Futato at pfutato@cox.net.



Kirkwood Fantasy Football League Champion Announced

Kirkwood held its annual breakfast and trophy presentation at Milano's Family Restaurant on Saturday, January 18, to honor and celebrate the 2019 KFFL champion, **Stephen Gray**. A rookie owner in KFFL, Stephen is the Associate Pastor at Westwood Baptist Church. Congratulations to Stephen and to all who participated this year.

In total, we collected \$65.58 in contributions to the Fisher House Foundation which provides a "home away from home" for military families to be close to a loved one during hospitalization. We look forward to next season and the fantasy football draft which will be held on Saturday, August 29, in the Kirkwood Fellowship Hall.



Pastor Nominating Committee Update

With much rejoicing, the PNC has now completed the Ministry information Form (MIF) which provides information about the position we are seeking to fill and about Kirkwood and the community to prospective candidates. Once the MIF has been approved by session and by our presbytery liaison, it will be submitted electronically to the Church Leadership Connection (CLC), an on-line matching and referral system of the PC(USA) for pastors and churches. Our MIF will be added to the CLC database where applicants can access it.

We will be advertising the position through National Capital Presbytery, our church's website, and church publications. Then the review of applicants' Personal Information Forms (PIFs) begins. We ask for your continued prayers as we undertake this process.

We are happy that Pam Johnson has agreed to join the committee. A congregational meeting will be held on February 9 to elect Pam to serve on the PNC. As always, we are grateful for your patience and encouragement.



Thanksgiving Basket Update

We received the following thanks from ECHO for the Thanksgiving Baskets prepared and delivered by Kirkwood:

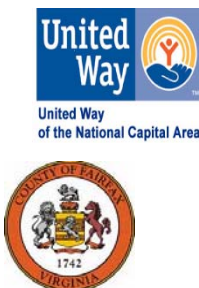
Please pass along to your congregation ECHO's thanks for their participation in our annual Holiday Meal Program. By providing **24 Thanksgiving meals** you enabled ECHO to provide over 215 families in the Springfield/Burke area with Thanksgiving meals and over 271 families in the Springfield area with Christmas meals...

We are grateful for your thoughtful gift. Every donation we receive is vital to our success. On behalf of our clients and volunteers thank you for helping those in need in our midst through ECHO.

Sincerely,

Robert T. Vitter

Robert T. Vitter, President



Giving Tree Update

Thanks to everyone who donated gifts during the holiday season for Kirkwood's Giving Tree. A total of 67 gifts were delivered to Lynbrook Elementary School, which included:

- 18 sweaters/sweatshirts
- 16 winter shirts
- 10 board games
- 8 books
- 6 pairs of socks
- 3 basketballs
- 3 footballs
- 1 gift card
- 1 winter coat
- 1 pair of pants
- and a partridge in a pear tree!





February BIRTHDAYS

February

- 11 Lindsey Windhausen
- 14 Jason Myers
- 15 Merissa Larson
- 16 Rhys Heidenreich
- 17 Joe Campbell
- 17 Anne Cook
- 17 Kristen Scott
- 21 Bob Runger
- 25 Myra Kurtz
- 26 Ron Cook

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Special Concerns:

- Dustin & Sherri Ellington and family,
mission workers in Zambia
- The Mirabella family,
mission workers in Japan
- LTJG Will Campbell,
deployed on USS Forrest Sherman

Health & Personal Concerns:

- Rebecca Larson
- Bob Hemm
- Dick Pape
- Joan Reynolds
- Millie Lane
- Kelly Jean Sillitti
- Carol Arnold, mother of Kristin Arnold
- Peter Scott, father of Hannah Scott



February ANNIVERSARIES

February

- 17 Mark & Marti Wessman

Please email Denise Gulley (denise.gulley@gmail.com) with Prayer Ring requests and also if you would like to update, add or remove your email address from the Prayer Ring.

The church office will be closed on Monday, February 17 for Presidents Day.

Tuesday, February 18 is the deadline for articles and/or photos to be included in the March Lamplighter. Please send content to Anne at office.manager@kirkwoodpres.com



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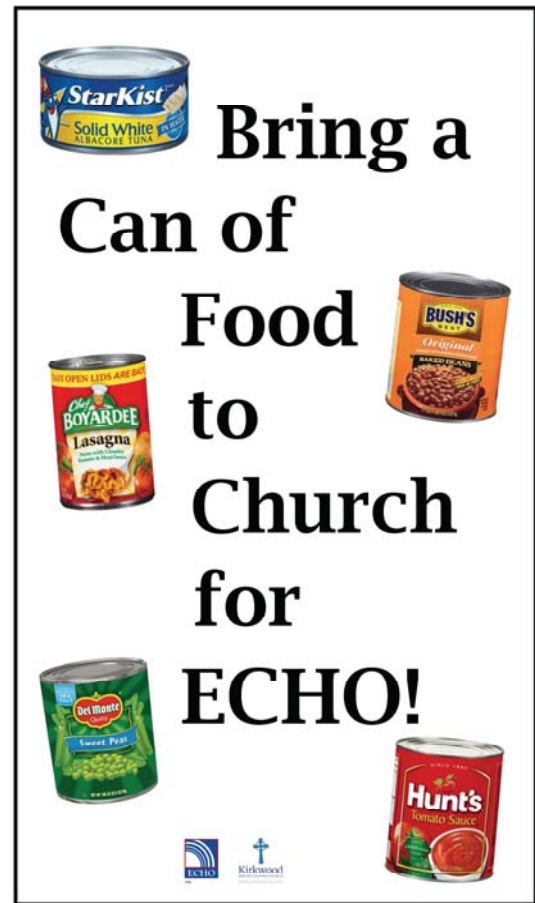
Interim Pastor: Rev. Susan P. Wilder
Director of Music: Christopher Smith
Organist/Accompanist: Hongju Lee
Office Manager: Anne Myers



Winter Storm Communication

In the case of a winter storm, Kirkwood will use the following communication methods to update the congregation about any church schedule changes:

- * Website (www.kirkwoodpres.com)
- * Facebook Page (Kirkwood Presbyterian Church)
- * Telephone Greeting (703-451-5320)



Mission Thank-You Notes Received

From Mission to the World, Tom and Karen Mirabella's mission agency:

"Thank you for your prayers and your gifts for MTW. We pray that your stewardship will bless you as it has blessed us. We are grateful to be engaged together with you in this work of the kingdom. Sincerely, Lloyd Kim, Coordinator"

From Presbyterian Mission:

"We give thanks to you for your support of Special Offerings, our collective witness to the love of Jesus Christ. By participating in Special Offerings, your congregation joins other churches to change lives around the world through ministries of compassion, advocacy, development, peacemaking, Christian formation, education and witness.

On December 17, 2019, we received \$1,120.32 for One Great Hour of Sharing. Your congregation's giving, when combined with that of others, will share the love of Christ with those in need.

Again, thank you for giving to enable all people to know God's life-giving welcome in Jesus Christ. Please let me know how we can support your efforts. With gratitude to God for our shared mission, Bryce Wiebe, Director, Special Offerings and Appeals"

From Presbyterian Mission for donation in support of Dustin and Sherri Ellington, Mission co-workers in Zambia:

"Thank you for your recent gift to Presbyterian World Mission. Supporters like you enable us to work in transformative ministries alongside global partners in more than 50 countries around the world.

Our ministries focus on three critical global initiatives: alleviating poverty, sharing the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ, and working for reconciliation. We would not be able to pursue these priorities without generous gifts like the one you gave to us.

God continues to call us to be faithful witnesses in our world, and your support helps make this possible. Thank you again for your gift, and please keep Presbyterian World Mission in your prayers. Together in mission, Rev. Rosemary C. Mitchell, CFRE Senior Director, Mission Engagement and Support"