

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Grounds Clean-Up Help Needed

We are looking for volunteers to help with cleaning up the various planting beds and trimming bushes around the building. We are planning to start at 8:00 a.m. Sat. Sep 21 and work until 11:00 a.m. If we can get several folks here, we can make some real progress. We'll have yard waste bags. If you provide shovels, gloves, clippers, trimmers, and some good ole Presbyterian work ethic, the grounds will look better than ever.

The Con Spirito Concert Series 25th Season 2024 – 2025

We hope you have all received the brochure outlining our upcoming season of concerts. It will be an exciting season, featuring diverse programs and musicians, and especially highlighting the amazing talent found in the greater St Louis area! Along with the schedule is our annual appeal. Con Spirito is 100% funded by donations. We receive no funds from Session. If you are able to make a donation or pledge for the coming year, we invite you to return the form to the church office. If you did not receive a giving form, please contact Bill Stein or Bill Larson and they will supply you with one. Our Con Spirito Concert Series is a longtime outreach to both the congregation and community. We are grateful for your support!



Peace and Global Witness Special Offering

A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering (Sep 8 – Oct 6) enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. 25% of this Offering stays with First Pres to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our own community. Mid-councils retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation in our region. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness. Giving envelopes are available in the Narthex. Online gifts may be made through the First Pres website under the Give tab. For information on this Special Offering, please visit pcusa.org.

Women's Retreat

Women! Save the Date! A Fall Women's Retreat at Mercy Center will be held on Wednesday, October 9th 8:30-1:30. The speaker is the Rev. Lisa Anderson, Executive Director of Room at the Inn in Memphis, TN. She is a dynamic and sought-after speaker. It will be a spiritually uplifting day.

More details will follow in the next few weeks.

Music for Children and Youth

We are happy to offer music for our children and youth during the school year, and invite your children/grandchildren to take part!

*Musikgarten classes are for our youngest members age 3 months to 4 years. Musikgarten teaches parents and guardians how to play and communicate through music and movement. Classes meet Wednesday mornings beginning September 18th.

*Cherub Choir is for children grades K through 2. This group rehearses on Wednesday afternoons 4:45-5:30 and sings throughout the year for worship. They also take part in the Christmas Eve Pageant at the 4:00 pm service.

*Chorister Choir is for children grades 3-5. This choir also rehearses Wednesdays 4:45-5:30, sings at worship during the school year, and leads the Christmas Eve Pageant at 4:00 that afternoon.

*Middle School Ringers is our bell choir for those in grades 6-8. They rehearse Wednesday afternoons 5:30-6:15 and ring during the school year in worship.

For more information about any of these groups, please contact Bill Stein at bstein@kirkwoodpres.org

Christian Concerns classes:

9:30-10:30 in Room 009

- On 9-15-24 Sharon Croissant will be sharing the journey of our Afghan families moving to St. Louis and the opportunities for our congregation to be a part this journey. She will highlight the Matthew 25 emphasis for Congregational Vitality.
- On 9-22-29 Dr. Clint McCann will be presenting his study of Psalm 82, which New Testament scholar, John Dominic Crossan, calls "the single most important text in the entire Christian Bible". He will explore how justice and peace on a creation-encompassing scale are at the heart of God's will for the world.
- On 9-29-24 We welcome back Jean Ponzi from the Earthways Center at the MO Botanical Garden with a presentation entitled "Homegrown National Park" What if we could feel as Nature-rich in our yards and community spaces as in our great public parks? By growing a relationship with Native

Plants, we can! If your space is a patio pot or a business campus, backyard or schoolyard, Homegrown National Park will welcome you!

Older Adults Use Your Voyce!

Join us for an educational series on aging well. Each session starts at 2:30 p.m.

- September 19th Three Documents You Need Before You Go To The Hospital
- September 26th Who Will Take Care Of Me?
- October 3rd Healthy Now And Forever
- October 10th Protect Yourself and Friends: Avoiding Scams And Abuse

For more information call 314-918-8222 or register at voycestl.org/events

Activities for Children and Youth at First Presbyterian!

Sunday School

Kindergarten through 7th Grades - classrooms are upstairs! Meets weekly from 10:00 to 10:50 am (between services)

Logos

Kindergarten through 8th Grades - meets Wednesdays from 4-7 pm. Rotation of Bible Study, Music and Recreation

Confirmation

Eighth Graders meet on Sunday mornings to learn about being Presbyterian

Senior High Fellowship

High School students meet weekly on Sunday nights from 7-8:30, with and retreats and lock-ins planned through the year

Reach out to Rob Monroe with any questions! rmonroe@kirkwoodpres.org or 314-620-3636

WE NEED YOU!

**SWEET
HOSPITALITY**

FIRST PRES CAFÉ
<https://bit.ly/firstprescafe>

Book Clubs

- **Tuesday Book Club** meets at 10 a.m. in the Fireplace Room every Tuesday. Our first book selection will be Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger. This group includes both men and women, and topics lean toward

history, biography, current events, historical fiction. Everyone is welcome. Contact: kochkaren@gmail.com or just show up!

- **Wednesday Book Club** will meet on September 25 at 1:30 p.m. over Zoom. We will discuss *The Little Liar* by Mitch Albom which is a story about the intertwined lives of 3 young survivors of WWII. Please contact julia@abreu.net for more information.
- **History Book Group** will regroup on September 26, 10:30, at church to have an "open mic night" to talk about the books we enjoyed reading over the summer. We will discuss *An Unfinished Love Story: A Personal History of the 1960s* by Doris Kearns Goodwin at our meeting on Thursday, October 24, 10:30, at church. For information, contact Don Lewis at donlewis610@gmail.com or Carlin Scanlan at ccscanlan@swbell.net.

Budget Update

We are pleased to report that there was a 22% in August offerings from 2023 to 2024. Year-to-date offerings are up approximately 16% compared to the same time last year. Year-to-date expenses are coming in around 7% under budget. Your continued financial support is making a large impact on reducing our budget deficit.



How to Give Online

Give online with a onetime gift or set up reoccurring payments and pay with ACH direct 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.

