Kirkwood United Church of Christ

Our Welcoming Covenant
Kirkwood United Church of Christ is called by God to be an open, diverse and caring community of Jesus’ disciples. In following Christ’s commandment to love one another, we welcome all who wish to share in fellowship, membership, leadership, worship, ministry, sacraments, rites, responsibilities and blessings of our faith community. As we affirm every person is a child of God, no one is excluded, regardless of race, ethnic or socio-economic background, marital status, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, physical or mental ability, nationality or faith background. We are an Open and Affirming and an Immigrant Welcoming congregation. All are welcome here!

A Word from the Pastor – November 2019

“Don’t fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray.
Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns.
- Philippians 4:6 (The Message)

As your pastor, I speak, write or type these five words a lot: You are in my prayers.

In fact, I speak, write or type these five words so much that I wonder if they might sometimes come off as shallow, inadequate, unconvincing. In the culture surrounding us, being in one’s “thoughts and prayers” is sometimes thrown out as offhandedly as, say, “How are you? I’m fine, how are you?” Perhaps that’s because there’s an awful lot to be praying about these days...just a thought.

I’m here to proclaim to you all that when I say you’re in my prayers, I really mean it. If I’m aware there are challenges occurring in your life and I think of you during the day, you are not a fleeting thought, you are a prayer in my heart. I imagine God’s energy surrounding you in that moment, flowing up through you in that moment. I pray you have felt that light at some point during your day, and particularly during those moments you need it most.

Praying for others is powerful, not only for the prayee, but for the pray-er. In the October 11 Still Speaking Daily Devotional®, Vicki Kamper, the pastor at First Congregational UCC in Amherst, MA, wrote:

“Recently I was preparing to take on an important and intimidating task. I reached out to some folks, asking them to pray for me and everyone involved. A few people responded with offers of encouragement and prayers, which meant a lot to me. One person invited me to text her as I was walking into the ‘lion’s den.’ Once she heard from me, she said, she would stop whatever she was doing to pray. I texted her, and let me tell you: Knowing someone was praying for me as I entered that challenging situation empowered me. I felt not only the power of prayer, but also the power of connection and the power of presence.”
I have had others pray for me in this way, at a certain time, in a certain place, and it has made my day. I have also prayed for some of you, at a certain time, in a certain place - and it has often made my day.

These are difficult times for us all. Some of us are dealing with serious health issues, profound grief and debilitating anxiety. All of us are dealing with the uncertainty of the future of our country. During times such as these we often need prayer and meditation much more than we realize.

I offer up to you: I will pray for you when you need it. I will pray for you when you ask for it. I will pray for you even when you don’t know that I know. I will pray for you. And with that, may the worries of us all be shaped into prayer. May connection with something bigger than ourselves be ours.

**God’s peace, Betsy**

* http://www.ucc.org/daily_devotional_the_power_of_being_prayed_for
Upcoming Sunday Morning Adult Education Classes:

“ProFuture Faith: The Prodigal Species”

November 3, 10

Having “squandered our inheritance on profligate living,” we are a prodigal species. Industrial civilization and our insatiable appetites have us hurtling toward irreversible consequences – not in some distant future, but right now. The good news is it’s not too late. At the intersection of science, spirituality, and sustainability is a deep love of life and a passion for our posterity – a ProFuture Faith. Join eco-theologian, author, and TEDx speaker, Rev. Michael Dowd in this DVD-based discussion course that bridges the gap between head and heart, science and faith. Participants will be guided on a journey that accepts what is inevitable, avoids what is futile, and be inspired to attend to what is urgent. Come home to reality. Embrace a Pro-Future Faith! These materials are from the KUCC-loved “Living the Questions” series. Class will meet in the KUCC theater.

Congregational Meeting

November 17 - No Class

Holiday Traditions in Other Faiths

November 24, December 1, 8

During Advent, when we Christians focus on our holiday observances & traditions, one can wonder how other religions in the world observe their holy days and/or holidays. Adult Education will welcome representatives from various faiths to share general information, answer questions, and describe how their specific holy days are observed. Please join us in this interfaith experience as we get to know our brothers and sisters of different religions. All speakers are provided to us from Interfaith Partnership of St. Louis.

November 24: Baha’i Faith (Speaker: David Landesman)
December 1: Congregation B’nai Amoona, a Conservative Jewish community in West County
December 8: Hinduism Temple and The Living Insights Center in Clayton (Speaker: Jack Sisk.)

Children’s Pageant

December 15 - No Class

December 22 & 29 - No Class
Kirkwood UCC Worship Series | Oct 20 - Nov 17

“Moving Out of Scare City”

The sense that there is not enough drives greed, fear, ungratefulness and exclusionary behavior. The Good News is that scarcity is an illusion. Our worship will focus on how fear of scarcity impacts our lives; compared to a focus on God’s abundance, which is fulfilling and life-giving.

October 20 | The myth of scarcity, the abundance of God’s blessings
Exodus 16:1-18

The value structure of our culture is built upon consumption. In our quest to compete, be better and have more, we lose sight of the simple joy of having just “enough.” God blesses us, and all of God’s children, with all that we need, if we’ll just get out of God’s way.

October 27 | Curiosity, rather than fear, can lead to action
Jeremiah 29:8-14

In times such as these, uncertainty seems to be lurking around the corners of everyday life. If we were to surrender to the immensity of God’s abundant power and love, how might fear be transformed into reassurance, and then curiosity?

November 3 | God’s abundant love provides refuge for the disenfranchised
Matthew 2:13-23

The story of fleeing for one’s life, and protecting one’s children from harm, are a central part of the story of Jesus as Savior. We are called to receive, with love, those who are seeking shelter in a safe place.

November 10 | Feeling unworthy? God’s love, mercy and grace abound
Psalm 56

Every one of us has at one time or another felt unwanted, unloved, unworthy. Here’s the good news, beyond our imagining: there exists a power greater than any creature among us, that loves us unconditionally, moving us toward Shalom.

November 17 | In gratitude, build upon God’s holy abundance
1 Timothy 6:13-21

We are called to make use of the holy abundance with which we have been gifted; to build, out of gratitude, a solid foundation that is life-giving to both others around us, and generations yet to come.
“With grateful hearts we thank the team who created the new banners in our common area. The banners are part of Jerri Davenport’s final project as our student pastor in 2018, and are meant to express who KUCC is as the body of Christ in the world. It’s especially fun to watch KUCC’s youngest congregants look at themselves in the mirrors. Enjoy! And thank you, Jerri Davenport, Mary Mohl, Evie Appel, Carol Bender, Barb Biedenstein, Gae Harris-Desmond, Colette Giezentanner, Barb Harris, Chris Lucas, and Virginia Okoloko.”
KUCC APPROACHES WELCOMING ASYLUM-SEEKER/S INTO OUR CHURCH

In early October, the KUCC Asylum Support Team contacted Heather Cronk, a coordinator for the Asylum-Seeker Support Project, to let her know that we are ready to begin the vetting & matching process to have an asylum-seeker stay in our church. KUCC member, Judy Kamper, has agreed to be the “official” sponsor of our future compa (short for compañero/a) and our team has been preparing our space and gathering resources for this ministry. There will be many ways that members of our congregation can be involved, whether it is volunteering on a support team, contributing financially, or engaging with our future compa/s. Once we have a compa/s in our church and assess what their needs are, we will make this information available to everyone in the congregation so that our support can begin. As a reminder, seeking asylum is legal under U.S. immigration law, and has been since 1980 when Congress passed the Refugee Act. Additionally, all financial support for this ministry will come from funding outside of KUCC’s operating budget. Please read the following information from the Asylum-Seeker Support Project’s website:

“Those who are seeking asylum in the United States are usually detained and then interviewed by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to assess their level of flight risk -- under the Trump Administration, few asylum-seekers are granted bond or release from detention without a “sponsor” on record. Sponsors are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents who are willing to submit paperwork to ICE to secure an asylum-seeker’s release and then to receive an asylum-seeker in their home [NOTE: KUCC’s compa/s will be living in the sanctuary space upstairs] upon that release.

ICE and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) have a few specific requirements of sponsors (which include: a fixed address where they can demonstrate they have resided for a significant period of time; ability to provide asylum seeker with a safe, comfortable place to sleep; and ability/financial means to provide asylum seeker with basic necessities such as food, occasional transportation, items of clothing, etc.). The Asylum-Seekers Sponsorship Project asks that sponsors [congregations] make an additional commitment on top of what DHS asks of sponsors, which is to provide food, shelter, clothing, medical care, legal support, and other hospitality to asylum-seekers for at least six months, and preferably one year. An asylum applicant becomes eligible to file for an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) 150 days after filing a “complete” asylum application and can receive an EAD 180 days after filing a “complete” asylum application.” Since we want to support compas in getting the best possible chance at building a life for themselves in the U.S., our program asks sponsors to ensure that compas have reliable housing and basic necessities as they’re navigating the process of gaining financial independence.

Agreeing to offer housing and support for an asylum-seeker means participating in a leap of faith that runs two ways: both your household [congregation] and the compa have agreed to share their lives with strangers, at least for a while, and there may be both anticipation and anxiety all the way around. Hopefully, there will also be many powerful and uplifting opportunities to experience the beauty of community, to build a relationship of care and solidarity, to learn and grow in your role as a sponsor, and to feel empowered by joining in collective resistance to policies of injustice and exclusion. As a sponsor [and congregation], you are joining a vast network of people across the country who have opened their homes [churches] to offer this particular kind of accompaniment, and who find themselves transformed in some way in the process.”

For more information, please visit https://www.asylumsponsorshipproject.org
November 13

Women’s Fellowship will be held November 13th at KUCC at 11:30. We will bring our own lunches. Our hostess Virginia Okoloko will provide beverages and dessert. After lunch, Virginia will provide a devotional on Gladness. All are welcome. Questions, please feel free to call Rose at 314-223-4666.

MEN’S PRAYER LUNCH

Our Next Meeting will be November 8
At Circa St Louis in Des Peres

God’s Helping Hands Breakfast Program

The following KUCC members are scheduled to serve breakfast on Sunday morning, November 17:
Russ Kuttenkuler, Emily Kuttenkuler, Kim Finney,
Paul Halwe, Carol Bender, Earline Stewart,
Barb Thompson

The breakfast teams serve between 80 & 120 people on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

Thank you for your service in this important ministry.
Baby Bundle Thank You

Babies are often seen as beacons of hope for our collective futures. The Baby Bundles KUCC prepared for the Festival of Sharing are the step up some of those babies need. Once again, the congregation came through with an amazing show of generosity. While the Mission and Outreach Team asked for enough items to make six Baby Bundles, we actually received enough items to make thirteen! It must be that people can’t help themselves when buying those tiny, adorable clothes for little ones and felt compelled to purchase more than was asked for. Thank you for your amazing generosity. There will be babies in Missouri with more comfortable days and brighter futures as a result!

Dear KUCC,
Thank you so much for all your love and support you have given me during the past few months while my dad was sick and in hospice. All the hugs and cards that I have received - my heart is full. Everyday since my Dad has passed away I come home to a card in the mail from someone here at KUCC. I am truly forever grateful to have you all in my life and be able to work for such an amazing, loving, giving group of people at KUCC. Donna Bay
CHRISTMAS GIFT PROGRAM
The Mission and Outreach Team is already working to make this year's Christmas Gift Program with God's Helping Hands Ministry the same huge success it has been in the past. On November 17 the gift tags will be available on trees in the gathering space after worship. Purchased gifts will be due back at KUCC by December 15 so they can be delivered in plenty of time for Christmas. We also anticipate supporting St. John's Community Ministry this year as we have done before. The incredible way our congregation supports these programs makes the love of Christmas real and meaningful in the lives of many children and families. We thank you for your generosity!

ALL AGES are invited to a MULTIGENERATIONAL ADVENT CELEBRATION on Sunday, December 1, from 4:30-6:30 PM. The theme: Preparing for Christmas and creating coping strategies that might be helpful during this stressful time of year to prepare for both the material and spiritual sides of Christmas.

The evening will include crafts and activities, simple dinner, brief closing worship. Sign up on the bulletin board by November 24 to give us time adequate time to gather supplies and food.

NEEDED: Several people to help with set up and facilitate the activities. Sign up on the bulletin board or contact Linda Reynolds (507-254-7630 or lindareyno@aol.com)
### November 2019 Worship Leaders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LECTORS</th>
<th>ACOLYTES</th>
<th>USHERS</th>
<th>GREETERS</th>
<th>NURSERY CARE GIVER (9 - Noon)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 3</td>
<td>Rose Brockhouse</td>
<td>Anna Rodriguez</td>
<td>6th – 8th Grade Sunday School Class</td>
<td>Middle Schoolers &amp; Kim Finney</td>
<td>Jennifer Brockhouse</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 10</td>
<td>Judy Lane</td>
<td></td>
<td>Karen Zinkl-Taylor Kari Adams</td>
<td>Lynne Pieing</td>
<td>Jennifer Brockhouse</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 17</td>
<td>Jill Stoll</td>
<td>Catherine Mershon</td>
<td>Rose Brockhouse Lynne Pieing</td>
<td>Shirley Faust</td>
<td>Jennifer Brockhouse</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 24</td>
<td>Beth Heuermann</td>
<td>Walden Giezentanner</td>
<td>Kristin Groetsch Lee Giezentanner</td>
<td>Chris Lucas</td>
<td>Jennifer Brockhouse</td>
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*Jennifer Brockhouse provides child care during worship for infants through 3-year-olds. During the Adult Education Hour she cares for the young ones, and school-age children as well.*

### November Presenters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>&quot;CHILDREN’S TIME” PRESENTERS</th>
<th>MISSION MOMENT</th>
<th>COFFEE HOUR</th>
<th>SOUND SYSTEM OPERATORS</th>
<th>SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS</th>
<th>OFFERING STEWARDS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 3</td>
<td>Betsy</td>
<td>Don &amp; Kari Adams</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jack Bauer Murray Pounds</td>
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<td>Mike Amsler</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 10</td>
<td>Barb Thompson</td>
<td>Rick &amp; Carol Bender</td>
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<td>Nathaniel Fine Ron Humphrey</td>
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<td>John Blaser Ken Heuermann</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 17</td>
<td>Linda Reynolds</td>
<td>Christmas Gift Program</td>
<td></td>
<td>Murray Pounds</td>
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<td>Lev Reynolds Chris Lucas</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 24</td>
<td>Judy Kamper</td>
<td>Tom &amp; Mary Rich</td>
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<td>Russ Kuttenkuler</td>
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<td>Marie Andel Barb Harris</td>
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## November 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>3 Daylight Savings Time</strong></td>
<td><strong>4</strong> 10:00a Al-Anon*</td>
<td><strong>5</strong> 11:15a Al-Anon*</td>
<td><strong>6</strong> 10:00a Adult Faith Formation</td>
<td><strong>7</strong> 11:15a Al-Anon*</td>
<td><strong>8</strong> 12:30p Men's Prayer Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30a Worship/Communion/</td>
<td>1:00p Adult Ed 7:00p SLAA*</td>
<td>4:00p Mission &amp; Outreach</td>
<td>5:00p Meditation</td>
<td>5:00p LOGOS</td>
<td>6:35p Volleyball</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>All Saints</td>
<td></td>
<td>6:00p Yoga*</td>
<td>6:00p Lectio Divina Bible Study</td>
<td>7:15p Choir practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30a Coffee Hour</td>
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<td>6:30p Al-Anon*</td>
<td>6:30p Al-Anon*</td>
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<td>10:30a Town Hall Mtg.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00a Adult Ed</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>10</strong> 10:00a Al-Anon*</td>
<td><strong>11</strong> 11:15a Al-Anon*</td>
<td><strong>12</strong> 11:15a Al-Anon*</td>
<td><strong>13</strong> 10:00a Adult Faith Formation</td>
<td><strong>14</strong> 11:15a Al-Anon*</td>
<td><strong>15</strong> 7:25p Volleyball</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30a Worship</td>
<td>5:30p Worship &amp; Music</td>
<td>5:30p Worship &amp; Music</td>
<td>11:30a Women's Fellowship</td>
<td>5:00p LOGOS</td>
<td>7:15p Choir practice</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30a Coffee Hour</td>
<td>6:00p Yoga*</td>
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<td>11:00a Adult Faith Formation</td>
<td>6:00p Lectio Divina Bible Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00a Stewardship &amp; Finance</td>
<td>7:00p Church Council</td>
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<td>6:30p Al-Anon*</td>
<td>7:15p Choir practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00a Adult Ed</td>
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<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>17</strong> 7:15a Group leaves to</td>
<td><strong>18</strong> 10:00a Al-Anon*</td>
<td><strong>19</strong> 11:15a Al-Anon*</td>
<td><strong>20</strong> 10:00a Adult Faith Formation</td>
<td><strong>21</strong> 11:15a Al-Anon*</td>
<td><strong>22</strong> 7:25p Volleyball</td>
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<tr>
<td>cook food</td>
<td>1:00p Book Club*</td>
<td>6:00p Al-Anon*</td>
<td>5:00p Meditation</td>
<td>5:00p LOGOS</td>
<td>7:15p Choir practice</td>
<td>23</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30a Worship/</td>
<td>7:00p SLAA*</td>
<td>6:00p Yoga*</td>
<td>5:00p Lectio Divina Bible Study</td>
<td>7:15p Choir practice</td>
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<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Congregational Mtg.</td>
<td></td>
<td>6:15p Worship &amp; Music</td>
<td>6:30p Al-Anon*</td>
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<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30a Coffee Hour</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00a Adult Ed</td>
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<td>27</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>24</strong> 9:30a Worship</td>
<td><strong>25</strong> 10:00a Al-Anon*</td>
<td><strong>26</strong> 11:15a Al-Anon*</td>
<td><strong>27</strong> 10:00a Adult Faith Formation</td>
<td><strong>28</strong> Thanksgiving</td>
<td><strong>29</strong> Office Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30a Coffee Hour</td>
<td>7:00p SLAA*</td>
<td>6:00p Yoga*</td>
<td>5:00p Meditation</td>
<td>Office Closed</td>
<td>Office Closed</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00a Adult Ed</td>
<td>6:30p Nurture &amp; Ed</td>
<td>6:15p Worship &amp; Music</td>
<td>6:30p Lectio Divina Bible Study</td>
<td>11:15a Al-Anon*</td>
<td>6:30p Volleyball</td>
<td>28 Thanksgiving</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here!

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
Sunday Worship & Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.
Adult Education at 11:00 a.m. (Sundays)

KUCC STAFF
Betsy Happel, Pastor
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Donna Bay, Administrative Assistant
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Jennifer Brockhouse
Nursery Care Giver

All articles for the next Newsletter are due to the church office at donna@kirkwooducc.org no later than November 15.