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 – April 2020

“And when the broken-hearted people living in the world agree
There will be an answer, let it be
For though they may be parted, there is still a chance that they will see
There will be an answer, let it be”
- Paul McCartney, 1970

How many months in a row can I begin my pastor’s note referencing our extraordinary and anxious times? Several, apparently, meaning these extraordinary times will not be a blip on our historical charts, but a more historically lingering, transformational moment. And, honestly, this is how I look at it: we get to experience it. We get to - anxiety, pain, chaos, wonderment, awe-fullness, all of it. Quite remarkable.

During my spiritual direction training, which took place online March 26-29, we listened to a recording of the Beatles singing “Let It Be” - the 1970, electric guitar version. Have you ever heard a song, in a certain moment, that resonated so deeply that you could feel the music moving in and through you? In the midst of these extraordinary times, “Let It Be” was that song for me on March 28. The lyrics held deep meaning

And when the night is cloudy there is still a light that shines on me
Shine until tomorrow, let it be

And it wasn’t just the words, it was also the beat of the drum and the guitars and the keyboard, all of it together. All of it together was necessary to create this music that moved within me.

Let it be, let it be, let it be, yeah, let it be
Whisper words of wisdom, let it be
And it was also that it evoked memories, of course. Here is where I might write that it took me back to simpler times. But 1970 was not a simple time - it was a complicated time in our country and in my 14-year-old life. There was uncertainty and anxiety and chaos. And somehow, within that, hopefulness.

*Let it be, let it be, let it be, yeah, let it be*
*There will be an answer, let it be*

So, now, every day, I listen to “Let It Be” at least once. Not the early, softer version; but the later, electric guitar version, which seems to have the energy needed to move us through the slog of our days. It doesn’t matter how many times I hear it, or what’s happening on the day I’m listening, it still moves my soul. It gives me what I need: to trust in something bigger than me or us or beyond our imagining. Can you hear it?

*Let it be, let it be, let it be, yeah, let it be*
*There will be an answer, let it be*
*Let it be, let it be, let it be, yeah, let it be*
*Whisper words of wisdom, let it be*

*God’s peace, Betsy*
KUCC Good Friday Prayer Vigil - April 10, 6 am - 6 pm

One of our spiritual formation traditions at KUCC is to hold a 12-hour prayer vigil on Good Friday, April 10. Participants sign-up to pray for 30-minutes between 6 am - 6 pm. Our goal is to have the entire 12 hours lifted in prayer. During these extraordinary times, there is much to offer to, and glean from, our God. Perhaps 30 minutes of quiet, holy time is exactly what calls out to your heart. **To sign up for a 30-minute prayer slot, please click on the following web link** (or copy it into your web browser if clicking doesn't work), which will take you to the signup sheet: volunteersignup.org/C9YBC

To sign up, just follow the instructions on the page. It only takes a few seconds to do. Thank you for volunteering!

KUCC Good Friday Service - April 10, 7:00 pm via Zoom

Our Good Friday service will be offered via Zoom, with access information to come next week. This service will be interactive and include monologues spoken from the perspective of six “who were there” with Jesus during his final days. It is moving and thought-provoking, and will end as we traditionally do on Good Friday: with the sound of 33 chimes, then silence.

KUCC Easter Sunday Service - April 12, 9:30 am via Zoom

Trust in God’s spirit of resurrected life! In the end, love wins. We will celebrate hopefulness, transformed into trust, with wonderful music and liturgy, and the sacrament of Holy Communion. Details on how to access this service will be shared next week via emails, the KUCC website, and the KUCC Facebook page.

In the midst of these uncertain and curious times, your presence will help move us toward God’s Shalom. We hope you’ll join us over the holiday weekend.

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

Sunday Worship @ 9:30 am on Zoom
see details on our website [www.kirkwooducc.org](http://www.kirkwooducc.org)
A Dream Group is Forming At KUCC

Betsy is forming a dream work group at KUCC, which she will facilitate. Dream work groups meet for the purpose of sharing and exploring their own dreams with each other. All of us dream! Not all of us recall our dreams, however. With intentionality and practice, recalling dreams can become a natural part of one’s sleeping and waking. Doing group dream work is both fascinating and fun, as dreams serve as a window to our unconscious and soul-life. Dream groups require a willingness to share and be vulnerable, which, understandably, is not for everyone. If you would like to participate in this small group experience at KUCC, and also have access to Zoom video/audio capabilities, please contact Betsy at bfhappl@gmail.com.

Face Masks: A request from Deaconess Nurse Ministry:

Deaconess Nurse Ministry is asking for donations of face masks to help in the protection of nurses and other service providers by The Council for Health and Human Service Ministries agencies. The face masks can be either be construction grade paper masks or paint masks or sewn masks using pattern that covers the nose completely. Those patterns are available online at www.hellosewing.com/face-mask-sewing-pattern. Deaconess Nurse Ministry will serve as a clearinghouse for the donations of facemasks, which will be distributed to not only Deaconess nurses, but Every Child's Hope and St. Andrews Senior Services.

Place: KUCC
Date: June 29, 30, July 1 and 2
Time: 9:30-NOON
WHO: ages 4 by June 1st—children entering 5th Grade
6th Grade & older youth welcome as volunteers!
Cost: $15 per child ($25 per family)

This year at VBS, we will be exploring God's Great Big Beautiful World! Your child will experience Bible stories about God's amazing world and discover the ways God cares for every part of creation. Your child will make new friends, sing fun songs, watch dramatic presentations of the Bible stories, play active games, go on a nature scavenger hunt, do art projects and science explorations, and dig into the Bible. Registration opens April 1st.
Easter Outfits for God’s Helping Hands

As is the case with many Easter events, the children at God’s Helping Hands are not going to get their Easter outfits in time for Easter. Janis Hutchison, Coordinator of God’s Helping Hands, is hoping to be give those outfits to the children after the quarantine is over and schedule a celebration events three weeks late to give them the opportunity to wear them.

If you have not purchased an outfit or have purchased but still have it at home, you will have an opportunity to do that a week or so after the quarantine is over.

Thanks to those of you who did purchase outfits already. And thanks to all for continuing to support God’s Helping Hands.

April Update – The Hernandez family has been transferred from California to the Karns Family Residential Center in Texas. They have not been separated! We are still waiting for word from ICE about their release.
A note about financial giving for KUCC during these extraordinary times:

We are grateful for the many ways KUCC members and friends support our wonderful faith community. Truly, we are a body of Christ’s spirit, and our connected with each other, and the world around us, will hold strong. We recognize that the financial realities of some of us will change in the weeks to come. If you are able to continue supporting KUCC financially as you have, thank you. If you find yourself unable to do so, we ask that you give as you are able. We’ll get through this and make temporary adjustments as necessary. Every little bit will help in order to maintain KUCC outreach ministries (needed more than ever), staff compensation, church facility utilities, etc. **There are three ways for you to give financially to KUCC:**

- through the GIVE button on the home page of our website, [www.kirkwooducc.org](http://www.kirkwooducc.org).
- through automatic deductions from your checking account, established through your own bank.
- by sending a check to the church at 1603 Dougherty Ferry Rd., Kirkwood, 63122. The mail is being checked regularly.

**We thank you for your support!**

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**KirkCare is in need of non-perishable goods for their food pantry.**

If you are shopping for your own grocery needs and could purchase a few extra items for KirkCare, it would be greatly appreciated. Food items can be left on Rose and Doug Brockhouse’s front stoop, 612 Rosewood Lane, Kirkwood, 63122. Or, you can send a check donation to the church, indicating KirkCare on the memo line. Or, you can make a donation on the Kirkwood UCC website ([www.kirkwooducc.org](http://www.kirkwooducc.org)) and send an email to Carol Bender, one of our Financial Secretaries,
No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here!

Sunday Worship @ 9:30 am on Zoom
see details on our website
www.kirkwooducc.org

KUCC STAFF

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Facebook us

All articles for the next Newsletter are due to the church office at donna@kirkwooducc.org no later than April 22.