

# THE KIRK of Bonnie Brae

## November 2026

### From Your Pastor

Dear Kirk,

As I embarked on my sabbatical this past summer, although my theme was walking, I was asking some bigger questions, namely, "Why church?" It's not that I was asking those questions for myself; I am hooked. I love our community and the way we care for each other and our neighbors. What I was seeking was a way to explain the power of church to those who do not know it, who do not trust it. I was humbled and joyful to find that almost every answer led me back to who we are as a community. The word "relationship" came up again and again.

It seems the answer to the question, "Why church?" is about relationship with God, relationship with this world, and relationship with community. As our mission statement guides us, we pursue depth in relationship with God, Earth and Community through engaged faith and social justice. So yes, I am preaching to the choir, but also, what do we mean by relationship? If we have named this relational work as central to who we are as church, we should explore it more!

So I am so excited that this month, as we plan to gather around tables with our relations, we will explore real-relationships and wonder together how we exist in relationships with others, with ourselves, and with God.

All of this is to say, I am grateful for you, for this church and for who God has and is calling us to be.

*Selena*

### Daylight Saving Time

Remember to fall back this Sunday, November 1!



### All Saints Sunday

This Sunday, November 1, we will celebrate All Saints' Sunday as we light a candle and read the names of those within our community whom we have lost in the past year. There will also be a time for the congregation to light candles in remembrance of the saints in their lives, lost not only this year but at any time in the past.

# Worship in November

# REAL ationships

Throughout the month of November, we will be looking at our real-ationships and how our way of faith guides us, as we make them not just associations but real glimpses of the love God has for us.

## November 1: REAL-ationships with the Saints, All Saints Sunday, Hebrews 11:29-12:2

This text reminds us that we are all children of God. As we hold grief and memory and hope together, what comfort is offered in our connection to God and our community, in and beyond this life?

## November 8: REAL-ationships with Yourself, Mark 12:30-31

What does it mean to be intentional about our relationship with ourselves? Why did Jesus include the command to love others as we love ourselves? Is that supposed to be the easier or the harder part of the commandment?

## November 15: REAL-ationships with Community, Colossians 3:11-17

Why does the Bible tell us time and time again how to live in relationship with others? As we look at this pragmatic text, we will look deeper at the role of relationship with people as a means to our relationship with God.

## November 22: REAL-ationships with God and Justice, Amos 5:16-24

As we continue our series on relationships, we will ask: How does my relationship and engagement with justice impact my relationship with God?

## November 29: Expecting Advent – Hanging of the Christmas Green

We know what happens in Advent, and yet we are still filled with anticipation. In this service, we will slow down and be mindful of just what it is we are expecting and what it is that God has promised us.

## Tentatively Scheduled Loving Servants

| DATE        | HOSTS<br><small>For changes, contact Ellen Campos</small> | COFFEE<br><small>For changes, contact Erica Thompson</small> | LAY READER<br><small>For changes, contact the office</small> |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| November 1  | Ann Karlberg & Robert Bowles                              | Lisa Kipp                                                    | Lisa Kipp                                                    |
| November 8  | Greg & Beth Sherry                                        | Beth Sherry                                                  | Eva Gebel                                                    |
| November 15 | Joe & Diane Berry                                         | Gwen Wright                                                  | Ellen Campos                                                 |
| November 22 | Lee Trujillo-Lopez & Ashley Lopez                         | Patty Hummert                                                | Chris Smith                                                  |
| November 29 | Don Zimmerman & Patty Hummert                             | Erica Thompson                                               | Beth Sherry                                                  |

## Connect Online



- Click [HERE](#) for Worship livestreams.
- Click [HERE](#) for DIG / Story Circles, Conversations with Scripture and other ZOOM meetings.

Did you know you can connect to the Kirk anytime through our social media presence? Follow the Kirk on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube and share what inspires you with your friends and followers!



# Children's Ministry & Christmas Play



Each Sunday, our children are nourished by sacred stories of scripture and by the loving care and preparation of our StoryTellers! This month, our children will fully engage in the Christmas Story as they prepare for our Christmas Play on Sunday, December 13! If you have young friends, children, grandchildren, neighbors or nieces/nephews who enjoy bringing the Christmas Story to life, please make sure they are present during worship throughout November! Here is our Volunteer Schedule this month:

**November 1:** Eva Gebel

**November 8:** Heather Goetsch

**November 15:** Play Practice Begins with Josh and Ellen

**November 22:** Christmas Play Practice with Josh and Ellen

**November 29:** Christmas Play Practice with Josh and Ellen

## Youth Group!

All teenagers (and friends) in grades 6-12 are invited to join us Sunday nights in November from 6-7:30 p.m. for Youth Group! We share a meal, play games, check in about our weeks, and discuss issues of life and faith! We use the GroupMe app to communicate. You can join that group [HERE](#).

**November 1:** What is Your Calling?

**November 8:** Youth-Led Reflection

**November 15:** Deeper Dive into Faith led by Corbin

**November 22:** Thanksgiving and Giving Thanks!

**November 29:** At Lakewood UCC, we will depart the Kirk at 5:30 p.m. and return at 7:50 p.m.



## Youth Group Meals

This year we are looking for volunteers to provide dinner for our weekly youth group! We usually feed 15 people and need an option for 2 vegetarians. The kids really appreciate the food, and it's a great chance to get to know our youth and see what happens on Sunday nights. We ask those providing the meal to stay, eat with us, and after the kids bus their own tables, to help clean up so the youth can engage in their meeting. We eat promptly at 6:00 p.m., and cleanup starts at 6:30 p.m. Contact John Davidson if you have questions. To volunteer for a meal, please sign up [HERE](#).

## It's a Baby... Shower!

We are so excited to shower Heather Goetsch and Alessandro Peri with our love as they prepare to welcome a new little one into the world! We will gather after worship this Sunday, **November 1**, for some snacks and games, and to offer this family our love and blessings as they welcome this new life. You can find their registry [HERE](#), or you can bring children's books to help start their library! All are welcome!



# All Church Workday!

## November 7, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

We need YOU! On Saturday, November 7, we will start to get our building ready for winter. We need folks who will tend to the outside of the building, raking leaves and tending to plants, as well as inside the building – organizing, cleaning and more. We will have snacks, and it is a great time to help the church and enjoy each other's company. If you cannot make it that day, please see the sign-up list in the Narthex for a project to complete before November 7. It takes all of us to care for our shared space!



## Kirk Bell Choir

Our Kirk Bell Choir is rehearsing as we prepare for the holidays, and all are welcome regardless of experience! We will practice after worship on the following Sundays:

**November 8, 15, and 29**  
**December 6**

## Faithful Adulting Thanksgiving Dinner

It is time for our annual Thanksgiving/Friendsgiving Dinner! All those in our Faithful Adulting Group (ages 20s – 40s) will gather on Sunday, **November 15**, at 3:30 p.m. at the home of Emily and James Snow, located [HERE](#).

Please click this [SignUpGenius](#) link to bring a contribution to the meal. Mark your calendars for a great time of food and friends! Kids are welcome!



## Deck the Halls with Potluck Soup and Pie!



We will Deck the Halls in preparation for the seasons of Advent and Christmas after worship on Sunday, **November 22**. There is much to do to prepare the inside and outside of the church for the holiday season. There is a job for every ability, from our kiddos to our seniors. After we deck the halls, we will share a meal together. We invite folks to bring a soup or a pie to share!

## Coffee Volunteers Needed

Each Sunday, a volunteer comes early to make coffee (following a set of instructions in the lower-level kitchen) and also brings a treat for after church, and then cleans up. Thank you SO much to all who volunteer to create this space for us to visit and build community! We could really use some more volunteers, don't be shy, you can sign up [HERE](#)!



## Adult DIG

Sunday mornings from 9–9:40 a.m., adults gather in the Lower Level and on [Zoom](#) to DIG deeper into faith and relationship with God and each other. In November, we will continue with Story Circles (where our stories meet the story of Jesus), and then begin an Advent discussion that will lead us deeper into this sacred season. All are welcome to jump in at any time'



**November 1:** Story Circle, Stories of Compassion

**November 8:** Story Circle, Stories of Resistance

**November 15:** Story Circle, Stories of Suffering and Death

**November 22:** Story Circle, Stories of Resurrection

**November 29:** Advent Expectation



## BIBLE STUDY EVERY TUESDAY @ 1:00 PM

IN THE KIRK'S OFFICE & ON ZOOM

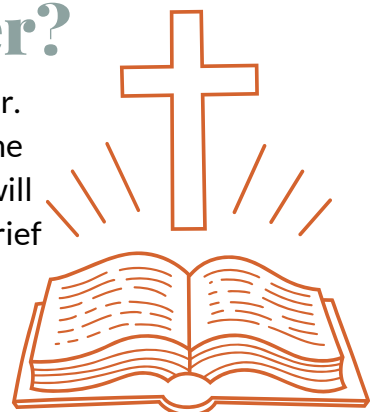
### Conversations with Scripture

- Casual atmosphere
- Join in or just listen
- Share insights and questions!



## Would You Like to Be a Lay Reader?

If you enjoy reading scripture, we invite you to become a Sunday Lay Reader. Don't let any fear of public speaking hold you back; the warm smiles from the congregation at the Kirk make it an incredibly rewarding experience! You will receive the scripture in advance, along with a guide to help you prepare a brief Stewardship Moment. To sign up, please add your name to the sheet in the Narthex or contact the office to reserve your spot.



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# Moderator's Report, by Lisa Kipp

Dear Kirk Family,

How can it be that it is already November? Of course, this year I see the actual passing of time as my 14-month-old granddaughter confidently walks around our home and tries to communicate exactly what she wants. I am both inspired by and a bit envious of knowing just what she wants and trying her best to give a voice to those demands. My thoughts come around to election seasons: we witness hope and outrage, and we wait for it all to just be over!



Might there be a temptation to look at the end of the year in this same way? I hope not!

On Sunday, October 25, in worship we blessed our new banner and consecrated our 2027 pledges, both shining examples of hope! In council this month, we looked at what we have accomplished and what still needs to be addressed. Through the capital campaign, we have completed air conditioning, security measures, and beautiful new flooring. We need to wait on the front yard sign until more capital campaign pledges come in. We will see changes to tenants next year as Hope & Home moves into their own bigger space. We wish them the very best and will miss having them in the building. We are currently exploring other renters for that space. Council discussed openings for the 2027 council. If you are approached, I would hope that you prayerfully consider joining our leadership. As someone who said 'no' for many years, I can tell you, it's really not that scary!!!

Yours in Service,

Lisa Kipp

## Important Tax Information for Year-End Gifts

At the end of 2025, the USPS published a new rule with significant implications for how the IRS allows year-end gifts received by mail. If you'd like to make a year-end gift that will appear on your 2026 giving statement, please note the following deadlines, which may differ from what they were before:



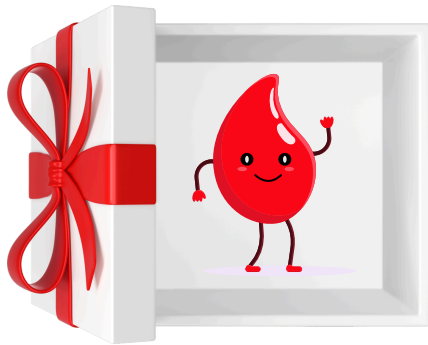
- **December 31 (Check USPS Hours)** If you plan to mail a post-Christmas gift, take it inside your local post office and ask them to add a manual postmark at the counter. If you don't take it inside, your gift will not be postmarked the day you drop it in a mailbox.
- **December 31, 1:00 p.m.** The latest someone will be at the Kirk to accept in-person gifts.
- **December 31, 11:50 p.m.** For all gifts made electronically on our [website](#).

For more information, you can read [this article](#) from the Philanthropy Advisory Council.



# Holiday Schedule

- Children's Christmas Program: December 13, 10:00 a.m.
- Kirk Gingerbread Building Contest: December 13, After Worship
- Choir Christmas Cantata: December 20, 10:00 a.m.
- Blue Christmas Worship: December 20, 5:00 p.m.
- Christmas Eve Worship: Wednesday, December 24, 5:30 p.m.



## Vitalant Blood Drive

As you consider all you will give at Christmas, please consider giving the gift of life! We are hosting our next blood drive on Wednesday, **December 2**, from 12-4 p.m. in the Narthex. To schedule an appointment, call 303.363.2300 or to go straight to the schedule, click [HERE](#)!



Hope & Home's annual toy drive is designed to help make Christmas magical for children and teens in foster care within our community! However, it's not just about making sure a child gets a Christmas gift; it's about making sure that a child knows that they are truly special and deserving of love and care. Many foster parents also reflect that seeing the gifts received from the toy drive reminds them that they are not alone and that there are many others out there who are supporting them! Click [HERE](#) for this year's requested toys on Amazon. You can have your gift shipped directly to the Kirk's mailing address, care of Hope & Home. Thank You!



## Take a Sack, Bring it Back!

On the **third Sunday of every month**, the Kirk Mission Team puts out grocery bags with a list of what Metro Caring needs. We ask that you live the rhyme, "take a sack (on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday) and bring it back" (full of groceries on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday) each month. This is one of the ways our church builds it into our individual and communal practices to care for our neighbors who are food insecure.



This year, as we enter Advent, we will reflect on the Expectations we have for this season and for God. While it may not all go as planned, it can sometimes be more than we imagined. We hope you will join us throughout the season of Advent!

## Blue Christmas Service December 20, 5:00 p.m.

As much as Christmas is a time of celebration and connection, for those who have experienced the loss of a loved one or for those who are disconnected from family, it can be a time when pain is amplified. For the past several years, we have partnered with our sister churches for this service, but this year we will gather just as the Kirk to hold sacred space, acknowledge pain, remember those we have lost and find comfort in community and in the wisdom of scripture, which reminds us that this season makes room for all that we are feeling. Even if you do not have an immediate loss, as we hold this service as one church, we encourage all to come and support those in our midst who have.



## Christmas Eve Worship

As your holiday plans take shape, be sure to remember that our Christmas Eve Worship, on Thursday, December 24, will be at 5:30 p.m. As always, this will be a meaningful service of carols, communion and candlelight!

# Kirk Birthdays

| 2026 |     | NOVEMBER |     |     |     |     |  |  |
|------|-----|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|--|
| SUN  | MON | TUE      | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |  |  |
| 1    | 2   | 3        | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   |  |  |
| 8    | 9   | 10       | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  |  |  |
| 15   | 16  | 17       | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  |  |  |
| 22   | 23  | 24       | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  |  |  |
| 29   | 30  |          |     |     |     |     |  |  |

|                    |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 2nd Chase Quimby   | 15th Aidan Hacker        |
| 8th Eve Harrigan   | 15th Rich Rowlands       |
| 9th Patrick Wright | 21st Elinor Christiansen |
| 11th Matthew Ewell | 24th Melissa Sheehan     |
| 13th Don Zimmerman | 25th Maureen Dutell      |
| 14th Eva Gebel     | 27th Michael Dunn        |
| 14th Greg Cooke    |                          |

If we have missed your birthday, please let us know by emailing [kobb@kirkofbonniebrae.org](mailto:kobb@kirkofbonniebrae.org).