“It's a beautiful day in this neighborhood,  
A beautiful day for a neighbor.  
Would you be mine? Could you be mine?  
Please, won’t you be my neighbor?”  
- Fred Rogers

Dear Friends,

I don’t know about you, but often when I hear the word evangelism, I cringe. I imagine people yelling from street corners or demanding strangers to tell them if they are going to heaven or hell. The truth is evangelism has gotten a bad rap. Most people of faith want to share the hope and love they've found in Christ, but often we hold back because we don’t want to appear judgmental or extremist. We are so afraid of doing evangelism the wrong way, that many of us even get uncomfortable inviting a friend to church.

But Jesus commissioned his disciples to love our neighbors and share the good news. This means that like it or not we are all called to be evangelists, but maybe not in the ways we picture. I hope you will join us this month in worship as we wrestle with evangelism together. Come learn how there is a better way to share the love than passing out tracts or telling people they are wrong. Jesus listened to the people around him, shared stories, and met needs. He revealed that simply loving our neighbors is the most important evangelism we can do.

Throughout the month of September we will be challenging one another to get to know our neighbors. KUMC is holding several special events including Back to Church Weekend and Outdoor Movie Night and you are encouraged to bring a neighbor along for the fun. We will also have postcards and handouts available, making it easier than ever to invite a friend!

Fred Rogers once wrote, "Imagine what our real neighborhoods would be like if each of us offered, as a matter of course, just one kind word to another person." Imagine how different Kirkwood and our surrounding communities might look if we followed Mr. Rogers' example and shared love and kindness with those we meet? There are likely people you see every day who are looking for a kind word, a loving community, and hope for the future. This September let's get to know our neighbors and invite them to see that Love Lives Here!

Love and Blessings,

Pastor Katie Trinter

September Sermon Series: Won’t You Be My Neighbor?

Jesus boiled down the whole of the gospel into just a few simple commandments: love the Lord and love your neighbor. Sounds easy, but sometimes it is more challenging than it seems. Who exactly is our neighbor? And what does loving them look like in the real world? This month we will be learning together the practical ways that God calls us to engage others, and how simple acts of love can change our lives, our church, our communities, and our world.
Back to Church Weekend

School is back in session, the beach trips are slowing down and now it’s time to get back into the fellowship of church! Saturday, September 15th and Sunday, September 16th is Back to Church weekend at KUMC. Following all worship services we will have lawn games, food, and live music outside on the plaza in front of the red doors to celebrate this special weekend. There will be some Dixie Land Jazz, hot dogs on the grill and perhaps even corn hole games in the parking lot. This is the perfect opportunity to bring a guest to come check out Kirkwood United Methodist Church.

We will hand out a promotional postcard in early September to provide you with an ice breaker to invite someone new - a neighbor, co-worker or friend - to get back to church with you on that weekend.

OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT at KUMC

Bring your lawn chairs and a blanket to see SING on an outdoor screen Sunday night, September 23rd in the Kirkwood United Methodist Church parking lot. The fun begins at 6:30 pm. Amigo’s on Wheels food truck will be there to provide snacks. The movie will start at 7 pm. This event is FREE and open to everyone. Come out, invite your friends, bring the family and sing along with the crowd under the stars to this all ages movie favorite, SING!

Come Together at THE ONE

On September 30th, we invite you to join us for one combined service in the sanctuary at 10 am called THE ONE. THE ONE will have something for everyone with both traditional and contemporary elements and it will be the only worship service for that weekend at KUMC. That’s right! ONE service for EVERYONE at KUMC! Prior to THE ONE at 10 am, there will be an all ages Sunday school hour at 9:00 am and a shared meal following worship.

When we all come together at THE ONE, there will be lots of time to get to know each other as we celebrate ONE worship, ONE community and ONE amazing God! Please bring a side dish or dessert to share at the fellowship meal following worship to share with your church family.
**Connect**

**DOT meeting at Jason’s Deli**
Join the members of KUMC Dining Out Together at Jason’s Deli Tuesday, September 18th during the hours of 4:00-8:00 pm for dinner. Let them know at the register when you order that you are with KUMC and Jason’s will donate 15% of the night’s proceeds back to KUMC.

**Stay Connected with your Friends!**
The 2018 Guidebook Directory edits are ready and can be picked up in the front office. For ongoing current information, download Church Life App for your phone or computer. For instructions go to the Connections Center.

**Enhanced Hearing Devices**
There are enhanced hearing devices on a table in the rear of the sanctuary if you would like to be able to hear sermons more clearly, or if you are serving in the lobby during the service. Please don’t hesitate to take advantage of these wonderful devices.

**Play Cafe**
Starting on September 12th, the KUMC gym will be open from 3-5pm for open play time for kiddos and hang-out time for parents. Snacks will be served, including coffee for the grown-ups. Drop-in for time to connect, play and relax together.

**DISCOVER KUMC**
Are you ready to really get to know KUMC? Join us in Room 201 at 11:45 am on September 9, 16, 23, and 30 for lunch and topics such as:
- What do Methodists believe?
- What is especially important to KUMC?
- KUMC and Methodist history
- How do I fit in?
Toys will be available for children.
REGISTER at the Connections Center or email Carol Fischer at carolf@kirkwoodumc.org

**Volunteer for KUMC Greentree Festival Booth**
Your help is needed Saturday, September 15th and Sunday, September 16th at the KUMC Greentree Festival Booth. Our booth’s mission is to provide radical hospitality with a diaper changing station for young families, cold water and simple snacks.
As a volunteer we ask that you be ready to share with visitors information about KUMC’s outwardly focused missions and upcoming events. Sign-up for a two-hour shift at the booth HERE.

**Now is a Great time to Join a LifeGroup!**
As the fall begins, many folks are looking to plan their schedules and reconnect with each other. One of the best ways to accomplish this at KUMC is to try out a LifeGroup! These small groups, which are mostly short-term, encourage “doing life together” by connecting people with God and each other, helping us grow together in faith and allowing us to serve alongside one another in the community. Many of the 300 who have been part of a LifeGroup would tell you that one of the most rewarding benefits is building authentic relationships with others in our church. Others would say it’s the way these small groups, listed below, have transformed their faith walks that has been most positive. Whatever the reason, we have a LifeGroup for you and hope you will plan to join us when these groups resume, or continue on, in the fall. Current groups will include:

- K-Men’s Breakfast (Thursdays)
- McArthur’s Men (Fridays)
- Bad Girls of the Bible (Tuesdays)
- Young Adult Marrieds & Singles (twice a month)
- Parents of Teens (twice a month)
- Jr & Sr. High (weekly)
- Supporters of Confirmands (twice a month)
- Through the Roof (for adults with special needs); (TBD)
- RUSH (formerly Recent Empty Nesters) (twice a month)
- NEW for Fall 2018--The Middle--a LG for those in the middle of life; begins September 9th (twice a month, 2nd & 4th Sundays)
- SWIFT (Single Women in Faith Together) (twice a month)
- Advent (Sunday am)
- Circuit Riders (Sunday am)
- Disciples Together (Sunday am)
- Faith Journey (Sunday am)
- Joy Class (Sunday am)
- Seekers (Sunday am)
- UMW Circles (various dates)

For more details, to suggest a new LifeGroup or to discuss which group you’d be interested in trying, please contact Megan Daniels at 314-966-6002 or megan@kirkwoodumc.org
Serve

Nominations This September
At KUMC we have four main Leadership Committees that oversee the administration of the church: the Trustees, Staff Parish Relations Committee, Finance Team and Church Board. Every year, some members rotate off these committees and new members are asked to join. Nominations for these committees are made by the Nominations Team in consultation with the Pastor, and approved at Charge Conference. If you want to learn more about these committees and what they do, or if you are interested in nominating yourself or someone else, please contact Pastor Katie at pastorkatie@kirkwoodumc.org

World Communion Sunday Bread
To celebrate World Communion Sunday on October 7th, we’re inviting the bakers of our congregation to bake the bread for the altar. The sizes, shapes, and colors of the bread can be just as varied as those people around the world who will feast on the bread.

If you are a baker and enjoy baking bread and can provide some bread for our common table, please contact Dolan Bayless, dolan@kirkwoodumc.org, or call 314-966-8167, and let him know what you can bring.

KUMC MISSIONS
The Church has left the building!

KUMC Mission for September: Hands on Kirkwood Winter Store
Time to clean out your coat closet! On October 6, 2018, Hands On Kirkwood will hold its 8th Annual “Free Winter Clothing Store.” Beginning August 27th, we will start collecting items for the 2018 store. Items to collect include coats, hats, gloves, sweaters, boots, and jeans for men, women and especially children sizes. We are also collecting toys, bicycles, children’s books and diapers along with children’s new socks and underwear.

This event provides winter clothing items for all ages to those in need within our community free of charge. It continues to grow each year. Last year we were able to bless over 450 people with over 14,000 clothing items plus many toys, books and bicycles when they visited our “free store.”

Volunteer at Hands on Kirkwood ‘18
If you or your life group would like to get involved with Hands on Kirkwood and make a positive impact in our own community, you can register here: https://reg.planetreg.com/E819535118510

Paid Child Care Positions Available
Kirkwood UMC’s Childcare Department is looking to hire two new kind-hearted, fun-loving people over the age of 16 to help serve with our Infant, Toddler and Preschool child care on Sunday mornings and/or Thursday evenings. These are paid positions requiring a background check and Safe Sanctuaries training and/or certification. If interested, please contact KUMC’s Childcare Coordinator Jennifer Faulhaber at jen@kirkwoodumc.org or call the church office at 314.966.8167 x 119 and ask for Jess Horsley, Family & Student Minister.

Trivia Night 2019
The date is March 30, 2019, and the place is Kirkwood Community Center. Now, we need YOU! Volunteers are needed to work as chair, co-chairs and committee members to start planning all the fun for this year’s trivia night. Can you help to make sure Trivia Night 2019 is success to provide vital funds for missions and other ministries of KUMC? Contact Trish Dunphy, trishd4@gmail.com, now to lead or be a part of the 2019 Trivia Team.

Moms in Service
Save the Date! Moms in Service will meet on Thursday, September 13th for breakfast and to assemble the Festival of Sharing Readin’ and Writin’ Packs. ANY Mom at ANY time is welcome to drop-in for a Mom’s in Service event. Come and meet some new KUMC friends! Extra hands are always needed. Meet at Julie Sherwood’s house at 9:00 am. Email mission@kirkwoodumc.org to RSVP and get directions.

Thanks! for Your Generosity
Food Pantry Donations
KUMC members donated 578 food items during the month of July. We are half-way through the year, and our donations to date are 4,989. Please keep donating each week to help reach our goal of 9,000 food items in 2018.

Backpack Report
THANK YOU!!! KUMC crushed our backpack goal by donating 508 backpacks, numerous school supplies, and $700 in gift cards. Kingdom House, Epworth, and the Meacham Park Neighborhood Improvement Association were thrilled to receive our donations. Your donations enabled many St. Louis area children to start the school year properly supplied.

Way to go KUMC!
508 !!
Thrivent College Planning Seminar

Wondering if you will be able to help your student finish college and still retire someday? With planning you can.

Wednesday, September 19th from 6:30 - 8 pm in The Wood

You are invited to attend a complimentary, 90-minute college planning overview hosted by Adam Caldwell Financial Associates. At this seminar you will learn how academics, admissions and financial strategies can work together to help save you money on college from Lead Financial Consultant, Kelly Brickner.

Come to learn more about what to expect in the transition from high school to college, tips on FAFSA and its importance to your student. Students are also encouraged to attend with their parents.

Disciple in the Making this October: Prayer Power

In this Disciple in the Making session, we will explore ways to more fully engage in prayer as a means to grow our faith and live more Christ centered lives. We will discover deeper meaning of familiar prayers, and learn new ways to pray individually, in community and even engage in movement and silent contemplation to continue our walk with Christ.

The sessions will be on Wednesdays, October 3rd - 24th. You are invited to attend the ENGAGE worship service from 5:45 - 6:15 pm in The Chapel. DIM will have an optional dinner from 6:15 - 6:40 pm, followed by a short video from 6:45 to 7 pm, and small group discussions from 7 to 8 pm. Childcare will be provided and children and students will be provided with their own program covering prayer. Watch for registration to open in early September on our website.

Would You Like to Provide a Bible?

You can help provide these Bibles for Third Grade Sunday with a $20 donation. Write “Bible” on the memo line of your check, and please write a letter to a student about what the Bible means to you and drop it in the church office to the attention of Niesha Thomas to go along with your donated Bible.

Disciple Bible Study Fast Track Studies begin this Month

The Disciple I and Disciple III Fast Track curriculum is a 24 week comprehensive Bible Study designed especially for busy adults. These Bible studies are aimed at transformation, not just information. The studies require approximately 30 minutes of reading a day to prepare for your weekly meeting. Disciple Bible Study is a great choice for intentional faith development. The class times are:

Fast Track III: Wednesdays, 7 – 8 pm, begins September 19
Fast Track I: Thursdays, 7 – 8 pm, begins September 20

Find more details on these Bible studies and register now:
http://www.kirkwoodumc.org/disciple-bible-study/

A Wesleyan Experience: The Class Meeting comes to KUMC

Are you seeking a different small group experience? In the early beginnings of Methodism, small groups of 7 -12 men and women met regularly for the purpose of helping one another grow in faith. Their focus was on personal transformation and faith renewal in a supportive environment where members could share their current state of spiritual growth and well-being.

New this fall, The Wesleyan Experience – The Class Meeting seeks to bring back this experience in a contemporary class setting. You are invited to join this transformational experience starting Tuesday, September 18, from 6:30 – 8 pm in room 110. There will be a $16.95 fee to cover the book cost for the group due at the first meeting.

For more information and to register, contact Gary Blunkall at 314-966-1859 or George Wootten at 314-966-6749. You may also just come to the first meeting to join.

Down and Dirty Bible Study

This casual Bible study led by Jay Wiesner begins Thursday, September 6, from 6:30 - 7:30 pm in Room 107. Jay invites you to come as you are, come as you can and come with a desire to dig into the Bible and be fed! No reservations are needed and childcare will be provided.

Grow

Third Grade Bible Sunday

Celebrate the gift of the God's Word Sunday, September 23rd in 9 and 10:30 am worship when Pastor Katie will present each 3rd Grade student with their very own Bible. These Bibles will be used for years to come - and each Sunday in the Tweens class. We also welcome youth and adults who don’t have a Bible to come receive this free gift. Join us on this Sunday and see how the unfolding story of God’s love is still transforming lives.
**Help Our Children Grow in Faith**

Have you ever thought about leading a children's Sunday school class or helping in our children's ministries? Now is the time! We need several volunteers to help our kids grow in their faith. This fall we are launching a new curriculum that opens up the story of God to our young in a way that is simple and fun! Consider serving 1 or 2 Sundays a month to make a huge impact in the lives of our kids. To get involved in Children's Ministries, contact Niesha Thomas at niesha@kirkwoodumc.org.

**Namaste...**

Yoga Classes will be offered in Room 110 starting in September on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 - 6:30 pm. The drop in cost per class is $8 or you can pay for the month in advance for $40.

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**Emergency Preparedness Training**

Would you know where to go and what to do in case of an emergency while at KUMC? It is critical for you to know this, especially if you serve in any way on the weekends. Join us at either 9:00 or at 10:30 am on September 9th in The Chapel to learn how to keep your friends and yourself safe in all situations.

**Home Sweet Home Move & Party**

September 11 & 12, from 9 am - 2 pm volunteers are needed to help unpack Home Sweet Home into their new warehouse in Brentwood at 290 Hanley Industrial Court. Please contact Sue Foster at 314-497-7130 if you can volunteer.

On September 13 from 4:30 – 7:00 pm, you are invited to “A Chair Affair.” This event is to thank donors and volunteers as well as introduce new people to the ministry of Home Sweet Home. There will be a raffle for chairs that have been creatively decorated by area artists including our own Jane McDowell! Come out and join us for an evening of fun!

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**September Calendar**

**SEPTEMBER**

* Monday, September 3 - Church Office Closed for Labor Day
* Tuesday, September 4 - CDO & Kirkwood United Methodist Preschool begins
* Thursday, September 6 - Down & Dirty Bible Study begins, 6:30 - 7:30 pm, room 107
* Sunday, September 9 - Emergency Preparedness Class, 9 & 10:30 am, The Chapel
* Sundays, September 9 - 30 - Discover KUMC, 11:45 am - 1 pm
* Wednesday, September 12 - Play Café, 3 - 5 pm, Gym
* Friday, September 14 - Sunday, September 16 - Back to Church Weekend & Greentree Festival
* Tuesday, September 18 - DOT at Jason’s Deli, 4 - 8 pm
* Tuesday, September 18 - The Wesleyan Experience - The Class Meeting, 6:30 - 8 pm, Room 110
* Wednesday, September 19 - Thrivent College Finance Preparedness Seminar, 6:30 - 8 pm, The Wood
* Wednesday, September 19 - Disciple Bible Study Fast Track III starts, 7 pm
* Thursday, September 20 - Disciple Bible Study Fast Track I starts, 7 pm
* Sunday, September 23 - Third Grade Bible Sunday, 9 & 10:30 am worship services
* Sunday, September 23 - SING Outdoor Movie Night, 6:30 - 9 pm, KUMC parking lot
* Sunday, September 30 - THE ONE, 10 am, Sanctuary Followed by Church-wide Fellowship Meal

**DATES TO SAVE:**

* Saturday, October 6 - Hands on Kirkwood, all day, Kirkwood
* Sunday, October 7 - World Communion Sunday
* Sunday, October 7 - All Church Meeting, 11:30 am
* Tuesday, October 16 - DOT at Bread Co., Sunset Hills, 4 - 8 pm
* Wednesday, October 17 - DIM: Prayer Power begins, 6:15 - 8 pm, The Wood
* Sunday, October 28 - Halloween Hallway Walk, 5:30 – 8 pm

**NOVEMBER**

* Friday - Sunday, October 16-18 - All Ages Retreat - Save the date and plan on it!