



# A Voice in the Pines

Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines Newsletter

Volume 69

August 2026

## A WORD from Rev. Kane

Remembering.

I thank my God every time I remember you , constantly praying with joy for all of you. Philippians 1:3.

One of life's joys is to be remembered.

Birthdays. Anniversaries, milestones and installations are those precious times we receive such gifts of affirmation. These expressions of gratitude remind us that we are in other people's hearts and that we made an impact on their lives. The words of appreciation fill our cup with joy and reward.

Paul, while in prison, remembers the faithful of the Philippian church in his letters and prayers. They are not alone in their struggle to witness for Jesus Christ. He remembers their care and companionship for his mission.

Out of our remembrance for others we are filled with gratitude, that God and others are with us. Even in the most difficult and uncertain moments of life, someone calling or texting or writing a note to us is a refreshing experience of love. By looking back on past memories and honoring them, we can move forward into the future with steadfast faith and trust.

Our gracious Christ Jesus invites us to "take communion in Remembrance of His love and mercy and sacrificial grace for us!" In our remembering , the Spirit fills us with joy that we are worthy and anointed in Christ !!

Remembering empowers us forward in Christ's companionship and guidance. Remembering all your generous support and encouragement of my new ministry here in the Kirk and among you all.

Blessings.

Rev. Jeff Kane



**Reverend Jeff Kane**

### August Sermons

August 2- Philippians. 1:1-11.

*Beginnings. God who began a good work in you.*

Communion

August 9- Philippians 2:1-11.

*Same Mind that was in Christ.*

August 16- Philippians 2:12-18.

*Shining like stars.*

August 23- Philippians 3:1-11.

*Christ and the power of His resurrection.*

August 30- Philippians. 3:12-4:1.

*The prize.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE KIRK

- **Saturday Worship** – 5:00 p.m., Bailey Hall, Rev. Jeff Kane leading worship.
- **Sunday Worship** – 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary, Rev. Jeff Kane leading worship.
- **"Opening Our Family Album"- Bible Study in Genesis led by Rev. Kane. August 7 & 14 -10:00-11:30 a.m., Bailey Hall**
- **Annual Kirk Fish Fry- August 12th , 5:30 pm, Bailey Hall**
- **Lunch and Learn- Emily Hooker, Ferncliff , August 20<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 pm.**
- **"Signs and Wonders: Miracles in the Bible and Beyond"- Led by Dr. Bob Morrow. Wednesdays at 10:00 am, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> through October 7<sup>th</sup>.**
- **Kirkin' o' the Tartans- September 20<sup>th</sup>. 10:00 am, Kirk Sanctuary- Reception to Follow**

*Find more events by clicking on the CALENDAR tab on the Kirk website [kirkinthepines.com](http://kirkinthepines.com)*

## Kirk Mission Funds in Action

### **Samaritan Ministries of Hot Springs: "A place to change life for the better"**

*(The following article is the latest in a series highlighting organizations sponsored by funds from the Kirk in the Pines Mission Budget.)*



**Samaritan Ministries dining hall. Bob Morrow photo**

In Jesus' parable of the good Samaritan, extravagant love comes to the rescue of a man who is lost and dead to the world. So it is at Samaritan Ministries of Hot Springs (SMHS), where the mission is "to serve homeless men with the love and compassion of Christ." Jan and Chuck Laggan started this life saving ministry in November 2007 and still serve as Executive Director and Board President.

There are two pathways at SMHS for helping homeless men. The ministry has space for 28 "overnighters", men from the streets who may stay at the facility up to 15 times a month. These men are required to be sober and are processed into the shelter in the late afternoon. They attend a Chapel service and are provided a shower, clean clothes, dinner, and a bed for the night. Prior to leaving the facility after breakfast the next morning, the men are required to participate in clean-up and laundry duty. In the SMHS newsletter, one "overnighter" commented that "they kept me safe from the streets and I'm grateful for their kindness and support."

A second pathway, available to those men who show progress in turning their lives around, is a live-in residency at SMHS for up to 10 months. There is space for as many as 12 residents in this program.

(continued from page 2)



Samaritan Ministries chapel.  
*Bob Morrow photo*

The men participate in daily Bible study, life skill classes, and work in the ministry wood shop. As needed, they are assisted in obtaining a high school equivalency credential (GED), recovering lost ID's, birth certificates, Social Security benefits and more. Men who graduate the resident program and are employed can rent low-cost apartments in the facility on a long-term basis. As one resident put it, Samaritan Ministries of Hot Springs "has given me a place to change my life for the better with God."

Including the Laggans, there are ten staff members at SMHS (some of whom are former residents), which allows for 24/7 staffing of the facility. SMHS is a non-profit funded almost entirely by donations, and the Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines has provided generous support over the years. In 2025, the Kirk's Missions Committee contributed \$3,325, for which the ministry is very grateful.

Volunteers can serve at SMHS in several ways. While there is a kitchen manager on staff, the ministry relies on volunteers to prepare many of the meals. Volunteers also assist in maintenance of the facility, and in the Chapel meetings by providing devotional messages. Currently, three members of our Kirk volunteer at SMHS: Daryl Henry and Blair Stroud are part of a regular Thursday team that prepares food. Gary Rector and Dave Rosenquist are "fill ins" for the Thursday team when needed. Drew Kahle and Barbara Albright, both Kirk members, have also helped out as part of a Rotary group. Others from the Kirk have helped with food preparation as well. All say they have enjoyed preparing meals and that the men are always very appreciative.

According to Jan Laggan, there are other ways to help in addition to volunteering and financial contributions. Donations of men's clothing are needed, especially jeans, shoes, and T shirts as well as personal hygiene items. When asked what else is needed Jan adds, "we need prayer; lots of prayer!" To donate or volunteer go to <https://www.samaritanhs.org/> or on Facebook @samaritanhotsprings.

*Contributed by David Deas, Communications Committee member*



*Dear Kirk in the Pines,*

*I am happy to inform you that the Mission of the Church Committee has approved Kirk in the Pine's request for a \$200 Mission Initiative Grant to support your hygiene-bag ministry.*

*Congratulations, and we pray God's blessings on this important ministry.*

*In Christ,*

*Peg*

The Kirk in the Pines received this exciting email from Peg Falls-Corbit, Moderator of the Presbytery of Arkansas Mission of the Church and the Mission Initiative Grant Program which offers grant support to Arkansas churches in their mission outreach programs.

The grant funds awarded to the Kirk in the Pines will be used to increase the impact of the Joy Circle's Mission Project which helps the students at Mountain Pine High School. The Joy Circle collects hygiene products throughout the year which are then packaged and donated to Mountain Pine High School. These donations are used for the high school counselor's supply closet to meet the student's hygiene product needs during the year.

The Kirk is grateful for the ministry of the Joy Circle and the support of the Presbytery of Arkansas with their grant fund Mission Initiative Program that assists local Arkansas churches.

*Contributed by Susan Morrow, Finance Committee Moderator*

# ***Maack-Ormsbee Scholarship awards go to five exceptional students***

The Kirk scholarship award committee members Susan Morrow, Donna Toney, Beverly Carpenter and Nancy Wood announce four scholarship award winners for the 2026-2027 academic year: Elena Clark, Olivia Eisley Clark, Benjamin Kriesant, Caleb Seitz and Grant Gibson. (Committee member Martha Nielsen recused herself due to a family member submitting a college application for this year).

The Maack-Ormsbee Scholarship committee follows the Policy & Procedures as set forth in the Scholarship Fund documents and bases the college scholarship awards on specific scholarship requirements, academic performance and potential and extra-curricular, community and / or work involvement. All of the four scholarship award winners met and exceeded the requirements.



**Elena Clark** (left) is the granddaughter of Carol Clark and is a rising junior at the University of Arkansas majoring in Exercise Science. Academically she is preparing for a career in health care and was able to experience studies abroad in Sweden. She finds time to work as a career peer mentor and participates in programs such as "Run with Christ." Elena's long-term goals are to "love others and be a vessel for Christ along with stewarding well the gifts that have been graced to her."

**Eisley Clark** (right) is the granddaughter of Carol Clark and is beginning her freshman year at the University of Arkansas majoring in Bachelor of Science of Nursing to ultimately become a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner. During her high school years Eisley has had the opportunity to shadow a Pediatric Nurse practitioner, conduct research and author two children's books on Pediatric health. During high school Eisley participated in academic organizations (National Honor Society), volunteer projects (Ronald McDonald House) and work/job commitments (Bark N Fetch shift leader). Eisley acknowledges that "My faith has shaped who I am and inspired my desire to serve others, both in my community and through my future career."





**Benjamin Kriesant** (left) will attend Indiana University, Indianapolis, IN, and is the grandson of Tom & Priscilla Hayek. Benjamin will be a freshman at Indiana University in Indianapolis and has been accepted into the Kelley School of Business where he will pursue his passion in Finance. His short-term goals are to “keep up with pre-college need-to-dos and grow stronger in faith.” Benjamin has been engaged not only in pursuing academic excellence throughout his high school years but also in extra-curricular, community and work activities. One notable event Benjamin organized was “Walk with a Future Friend” partnering with the local Humane Society for a fundraising event. Ben’s high school teachers note not only his leadership (Varsity Basketball starter and team captain), academic gifts (National Honor Society) but also his resilience after the loss of a close friend. He states that his long-term goals involve finance (his passion) and/or real estate and “growing my relationship with God.”

**Caleb Seitz** (right) will attend the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, AR. Caleb is the grandson of Marilyn and Mike Seitz. Caleb will begin his freshman year as an Electrical and Computer Engineering major. During high school years Caleb prepared the path with membership in the National Honor Society, choosing Advanced Placement courses in math and computer science and serving in a leadership capacity on the Technology Student Association. Caleb participated in both the Track & Field and Cross Country teams at Mena High School. Following in the family footsteps Caleb served on the Arkansas Presbytery Youth Council through his home church First Presbyterian of Mena. His community service hours at the Humane Society and the Mena Food Bank were in addition to his community business doing landscape and lawn work. Caleb has his long-term sites on “advancing the proficiency of technology.”



**Grant Gibson** (left), the grandson of Dotty Rector, has his sights on the skies as he enters his freshman year of studies at the University of Alabama in Aerospace Engineering. His goals include pursuing research and studying abroad and continuing academic studies beyond an undergraduate degree level. A family friend noted Grant’s ability to guide and inspire others exhibited in leadership roles in Honor Society and Aviation Camp. Grant earned an associate degree while still in high school along with pursuing the discipline of martial arts training as a fourth-degree black belt in karate.

Grant is appreciative of the scholarship funds which will enable his focus and time to remain with research and academic studies.

The Maack Ormsbee Scholarship Fund was established in 2018 by Pat Ormsbee in honor of Kenneth Maack. The fund supports higher education for students that are associated with the Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines. In this eighth year of scholarship awards the fund has awarded eighteen scholarships totaling \$43,200.

*Contributed by Susan Morrow, Scholarship Committee Moderator*

## Historic installation a new high water mark for the Kirk



Leaders of the installation worship service and guest clergy included (from right to left) Ruth Hamilton (installation Moderator), Bill Seitz (charge to Rev. Kane), Leslie Roper (charge to congregation), Rev. Ben Kane (sermon), Rev. Jeff Kane (offering) Priscilla Hayek (call to confession), NiAnn Thompson (prayer), Claire Rhodes C.R.E (assurance of pardon, passing of peace), Rev. Laura Phillips (guest), Rev. Brenda Kroll (guest), Dawn Canttaneo (grateful thanksgiving). *Robert Sonnen photo*



Former Kirk Pastor Rev. Bill Bailey (left) and newly installed Rev. Jeffrey Kane. *Priscilla Hayek photo*



The Kirk Choir, under the leadership of Kirk Music Director, Tina Kneisler, sang "How Firm a Foundation" and "Total Praise", both accompanied by pianist Donna Toney. Organist Fran Stroud played the prelude (Great is the Lord) and postlude. Donna Toney played the offertory (Brother James Air). Toney and Stroud also provided spectacular piano/organ accompaniment for the first and last hymns. The Kirk Choir was joined by members of the Cedar Mountain Singers and members of the Top of the Rock Chorus. *Robert Sonnen photo*



Phil Young, piper, opened the ceremony with "A Mighty Fortress" and closed with "Amazing Grace."  
*Susan Pendergrass video capture*



A wonderful selection of treats and canapes' were provided at the reception by the incomparable women of the Greenhorns.  
*Robert Sonnen photo*

## **25<sup>th</sup> Alleluia Conference attended by 4 Kirk members**



Four Kirk musicians attended the 25<sup>th</sup> annual “Alleluia” conference at Baylor University in Waco, Tx July 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>. The conference featured a variety of worship sessions, anthem reading sessions, presentations by many of the best in the sacred music world, and other learning opportunities.

Over 200 anthems were presented, many by the composers themselves. Leading composers included Joseph Martin, Mary McDonald, Brad Nix, Sean Paul among others.

From left, Susan and Bob Morrow, Patty Barnes, and Kirk Music Director, Tina Kneisler

## **Lunch & Learn will feature Ferncliff Mission and Outreach Director August 20th, 12:00 pm**

Please join us for a Lunch & Learn program on August 20<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm in Bailey Hall. Emily Hooker (right), Ferncliff Director of Mission and Outreach, will be our highlighted speaker. Ferncliff is the home of the Disaster Assistance Program and Emily will be telling us all about it.

Sandwich lunches from Artfully Baked and Brewed are available for \$13 or you can bring your own lunch.

Please email Donna Toney, [dhtoney@gmail.com](mailto:dhtoney@gmail.com), to reserve either a ham or turkey lunch. You can pay at the event. The deadline for reserving a lunch is August 18<sup>th</sup>.

*Contributed by Donna Toney, Christian Education Moderator*



## *Dotty Rector's sailing family gathers to celebrate her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.*

To celebrate my ninetieth birthday my family and I met at son Chris' home on Vancouver Island B.C. Canada. The following story is about our family's sailing legacy.

It all began in 1963 when my husband Wally and I bought a house on a lake in Wisconsin. We knew very little about lake living, but we were ripe for adventure. A new friend suggested sailing as a good lake sport and an M-16 scow was the best sized sailboat for our lake. We searched around nearby lakes and bought an old wooden M-16. Several others bought into the idea, and we formed a yacht club. We recruited a sailor from another lake who volunteered to come and teach us about competitive sailing. We joined the Midwest District of M-16 sailors and off we went. We sailed around a triangular course every Sunday afternoon in summer and improved our skills until we went to regattas at other lakes and did quite well. My role, as crew, was to work the jib, balance the boat to racing lines, raise and lower dagger boards, and inform the skipper of wind puffs. It is an athletic boat. We sailed Sundays on Little Muskego Lake and on Wednesday's on a larger boat on Lake Michigan. I loved it. It soon became my passion. Our boys learned to sail on a Butterfly boat and our older son Chris began crewing on other M-16's.

A short time after we hosted a big regatta, Wally became ill. He was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and couldn't survive it. This was the hardest thing I ever had to endure. But, I knew had to endure, and part of my recovery was to continue sailing. I generally sailed with one of Wally's good friends, Gary Rector. Later, Gary and I married. We continued to sail until we retired and relocated to Hot Springs Village in 1994. There was no venue for competitive sailing nearby, so we retired from the sport.

Meanwhile, son Chris married, had two sons and settled in Cobble Hill, Vancouver Island Canada, a great sailing venue. He continued to sail and his boys took sailing lessons. Soon, it became a passion for Ansel, my older grandson. He took classes at nearby Maple Bay, then moved to the Royal Victoria Yacht Club where he began to race on the ocean. After a few years racing, teaching and coaching, he jumped at the opportunity to race to Hawaii, and continue sailing from there to Sydney, Australia, where he spent a year.

He eventually became a professional paid sailor and raced in many areas around the world, including Europe and the far east. He spent several summers in Newport, R.I. and raced around the East coast, Bermuda and the Caribbean.

Probably the highpoint of Ansel's career so far is about to take place. He was invited to be a captain of the British boat in the 2027 America's Cup race in Naples, Italy. What an honor! He left for Naples in July, 2026 to prepare for the next summer's races. He will be there for a full year. The whole family is very proud of Ansel's achievement and some of them plan to go to Naples to cheer him on.

What began those many years ago in Wisconsin is now a family tradition, and I can't be more pleased!



Left to right top row: Ruth Nearing Koehn, Rainer Koehn, Kimberly Koehn Gibson, Aidan Koehn, Michelle Reen Koehn, Bradley Koehn  
Bottom row: Chris Koehn, Dotty Koehn Rector, Ansel Koehn

*Contributed by Dotty Rector, Communications Committee Member*

# *Kirkin' o' the Tartans*

*Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 a.m.*

*Reception to Follow  
in Bailey Hall*

The Kirkin' is a time-honored celebration originating in Presbyterian churches where we remember in worship our Scottish heritage with blessing of the tartans, honoring of our ancestors, and rededicating ourselves to God and our church.

Join us as we celebrate the Kirkin' O' the Tartans ceremony on September 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.

## ***A Journey Worth Taking: ARPP #39 is Coming This September***

Mark your calendars — Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage #39 (ARPP #39) is just around the corner, and there's still time to be part of it.

For those unfamiliar, Presbyterian Pilgrimage is a spiritual renewal weekend built on the same tradition as "Cursillo" and the "Walk to Emmaus" movement. Over the course of a few days, participants step away from the noise of daily life to focus on their relationship with Christ through worship, teaching, fellowship, and quiet reflection. Many who attend describe it as a turning point — a weekend where, like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, their hearts are set burning within them in a new way.

It isn't a retreat you simply attend and forget. It's three days filled with music, worship, love, laughter, prayer, discussion, and food! Pilgrimage is the beginning of what's often called your "4th Day" — the lifelong walk of faith and community that continues long after the weekend ends.

- Dates: Thursday, September 24, 5:30pm – Sunday, September 27, 5:00pm
- Location: Ferncliff Camp, 1720 Ferncliff Rd, Little Rock



In this photo (right) there are six (6!) members of the Kirk. Can you find Patty Barnes, Sharon Gardner, Donna Gold, Allison Harvie, Martha Nielsen, and Norma Stevens? We have many more members who have attended in the past. In fact, Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage was started by our own Dave and Ruth Hamilton! We want you to come join our Pilgrimage family!

Registration is available at [www.pilgrimage-arkansas.org](http://www.pilgrimage-arkansas.org). You may register online or printed applications are available in the hallway outside the office, or in the narthex.

As ARPP #39 approaches, please join in praying for a spirit-filled weekend and hearts open to what God wants to do. And for anyone who has already attended a Pilgrimage weekend, staff positions are still open!

For more information, contact: Patty Barnes, Moderator, ARPP #39,  
501-915-2074, [spectrumpatty@sbcglobal.net](mailto:spectrumpatty@sbcglobal.net)

**KIRK in the Pines  
FISH FRY**

**Catered by  
Riverside  
\$20.00 per person**

**August 12, 2026  
5:30 p.m., Bailey Hall  
275 Asturias Dr.  
Hot Springs Village**

**Last Chance to purchase tickets at  
worship on August 1 & 2**

## *In Memoriam*

Charlotte Grace Massey, 95, of Hot Springs Village passed away July 25, 2026. She was born October 3, 1930, in Liberty, Fulton, Indiana, to Fred King and Elma King.

Charlotte was married to Richard (Dick) Miller for 22 years. She and Dick moved to Del Rio, TX for a short time for his Air Force career. Then moved back to Rochester, Indiana near their families where he worked for Deans Milk. Together they bought and started a Deans Milk distributorship in Hot Springs, AR where she became the accountant for their business while raising two daughters. In 1974 Dick passed suddenly. Charlotte at the age of 44 chose to follow in her sister Ruby's footsteps and become an RN. She attended Garland County Community College and graduated Summa Cum Laude and was her class Valedictorian. She began working at St. Joseph's Hospital in Hot Springs in oncology.



During her time at the Burton Easley Clinic, she met pharmaceutical sales representative Richard Massey. They were married June 10, 1982. Richard had 3 grown children and a teenager who she loved like her own. Richard and Charlotte bought an Air Stream travel trailer and attended many rallies across the United States, making new friends along the way. They also became devoted servants in their church, Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines, joyfully serving on various committees. What is remembered most about her is our conversations. We would come to her with a problem, and she would listen patiently and ask questions that lead us to the best outcome. She always wanted the best for her family and we felt it deeply.

Charlotte was the last of her immediate family, preceded in death by her father, Fred King, her mother Elma King, sister Ruby Dinwoodie, sister Hazel Kercher, brother Ed (Bud) King, sister Francis King, sister Elvira King and sister Julie King, and many nieces and nephews whom she all loved.

Survivors include her husband Richard Massey married to Charlotte 44 years, daughters Kathleen Thomason and children Robert Thomason and Rebecca Snowden with their children and grandchildren and Cindy Haynes her husband Dwight Haynes, daughters Melissa Hargrave and Lauren Springer and their children and grandchildren. Also, surviving Charlotte are Richard's children who became her children; Chris Moorehouse, daughters Stephanie Risalvato and Courtney Moorehouse and their children, Sue Haynes and Austin Haynes, daughter Olivia and son Elijah, Richard Massey Jr. and Julie Massey, daughter Kate and Gretchen Massey.

A celebration of Life will be 10:00 a.m., Friday July 31, 2026, with Pastor Jeff Kane officiating at Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village, AR 71909.

The family wishes to extend a special thanks to Life Touch Hospice for their attention and care given to Charlotte. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines, Memorial Fund, 275 Asturias Dr., Hot Springs Village, AR 71909.

## HUGS (Healing, Understanding, Gathering, Sharing) Class on Grief & Loss, beginning August 12th

HUGS is an interactive support group designed to help with the grieving process by using visual and thought-provoking tools. During these four sessions the attendees will share their story, build memorials, write in journals, and write letters as a group. The Curriculum used is "Facing the Mourning" from Heartlight Center. Open to all types of losses, individuals and family members.

**DATE & TIME :** Wednesdays 10:00 – 11:30am,  
*August 12, 19, 26 & September 2, 2026*

**LOCATION:** Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines, Fran Brown Library

Class size is limited to 10. Pre-registration is required.

**CONTACT:** Class Facilitator Carol Clark,  
501.915.8497 or gcinhsv@att.net



## Mission Committee presents donation to Project Hope Food Bank

The July 16<sup>th</sup> Lunch & Learn featured Becky Choate from Project Hope Food Bank telling the story of this life saving mission driven agency. Members of the Kirk Mission Committee took the opportunity to surprise Ms. Choate with a presentation of a donation totaling \$6,067.

From left, Becky Choate, Project Hope Community Awareness Coordinator, Becky Wakefield, Judith Rosenthal, Priscilla Hayek, Carol Clark, and Bob Morrow.

*Harry Wakefield photo*



The Clerk's Corner is short in this issue due to the fact that the Session took a break in July. We didn't have our scheduled meeting. Of course, the work of the church had to go on and there was much to do, even without the meeting. Most importantly we met with and gladly welcomed four new members into the church (see below). Many of the Elders and Staff were busy making the necessary preparations for a glorious installation service for Reverend Kane on July 26. A special thank you goes to the Fellowship and Worship/Music Committees and, of course, to the Greenhorns and Choir. And lastly, our parking lot got a face-lift with resurfacing and repainting. I hope you've noticed good it looks.

#### Session Highlights:

- **Church Statistics:** Members—150  
Households—110
- **Membership:** Drew Kahle, John Slack, Melody Slack, and Mariah Slack joined the Kirk in July.
- **Deaths:** Charlotte Massey, July 25, 2026. Memorial service pending.

## The Clerk's Corner

Ruth  
Hamilton



### OUR VISION

A Presence of Christ in the Village

### OUR MISSION

We are a caring Christian community, striving to welcome, nurture, and inspire those who seek the Word of God and desire to grow in faith, fellowship, and service to others.

## *My dear Kirk Family,*

I am unable to find the words of gratitude and appreciation for your love and caring during my grieving the loss of my son, Michael. Your many kind and helpful cards, emails, and phone calls were comforting and supportive. Your prayers asking for renewal of my strength have given me hope. I will always remember your thinking of me during this difficult time.

I am so blessed to be a part of this wonderful, amazing congregation. I can never get over this heavy loss, but with God giving me strength, I will get through it.

Gratefully,  
Rosalyn Halbert



## ***New member Drew Kahle loves golf and service to his community.***

The Kirk's newest member is Drew Kahle, who hails from upstate New York. Born and raised in Buffalo, he graduated from Syracuse University with a business degree. He spent his entire career with Pine Hill Concrete Company, working as an on-site supplier.

Drew was raised in the Lutheran church, and worshipped there with his wife, Lois, as long as they lived in Buffalo. They always talked about moving to Florida upon retirement, but those plans changed after Lois made a trip to HSV to visit a friend who had just moved here. She reported to Drew that Hot Springs Village is just like the Adirondack Mountains, except warmer! And thus, in 2010, they moved to the Village. Sadly, Lois passed away recently.

Golf takes up a good deal of Drew's time, usually two or three days a week, but he has plenty of time for community involvement and volunteer activities. He is currently the chairman of the Public Services Committee for the HSV POA, and the Grants Chairman for the HSV Rotary Club. Volunteering for the Junior Golf Association involves lessons for 150 kids, ages 8 to 18. Drew also volunteers for the "Make- A- Wish" foundation and the Cancer Walk. For a number of years, Drew has been the starter at Granada Golf Course. That's not a paid position, but he is rewarded with coupons for free playing time.

A Kirk member, Barbara Albright, invited Drew to attend worship at the Kirk. He has attended both Saturday evening and Sunday morning services, and he states, "I am honored to be a member of the Kirk". Be sure to give Drew a warm Kirk welcome when you see him at either worship service. *Contributed by Barbara Worthley, Communications Committee member*

## **These Things Shall Never Die**

The pure, the bright, the beautiful that stirred our hearts in youth,  
The impulses to wordless prayer, the streams of love and truth,  
The longing after something lost, the spirit's yearning cry,  
The striving after better hopes, these things shall never die.

The timid hand stretched forth to aid a brother in his need,  
A kindly word in grief's dark hour that proves a friend indeed,  
The plea for mercy softly breathed, when justice threatens high,  
The sorrow of a contrite heart, these things shall never die.

Let nothing pass, for every hand must find some work to do.  
Lost not a chance to weaken love, be firm and just and true.  
So shall a light that cannot fade beam on thee from on high.  
The angel voices say to thee, "These things shall never die."



by Sarah Doudney  
(published by Charles Dickens in *All the Year Round*, 1862)

***Bible Study: Opening the Family Album***  
***Continues August 7 and 14, 10:00 -11:30, Bailey Hall***



A large group of students attended the first Bible study session on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
*Bob Morrow photo*



Rev. Jeff Kane, Bible study leader, talks with Donna Gold at a recent class.  
*Bob Morrow photo*

## **New Bible Study**

**Wednesdays, 10:00-11:30**  
**September 9<sup>th</sup> - October 7<sup>th</sup>**

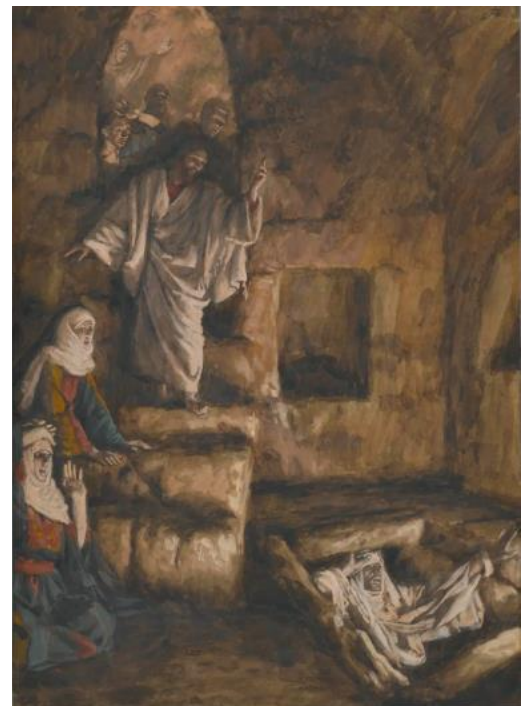
***Signs and Wonders:***  
***Miracles in the Bible and Beyond***

### **EXPLORING**

**Miracles in the Old Testament.**

**Miracles in the gospels of Mark, Matthew,  
Luke and Acts.**

**Miracles now!**



*The Resurrection of Lazarus,*  
James Tissot, 1886-1894

## ***Please welcome new members of the Kirk Mariah, John, and Melody Slack***



***Robert Sonnen photo***

New Kirk members (from left) Mariah, John, and Melody Slack moved to Hot Springs Village from Olympia, WA, in May. While looking for a worship service they were led to the Kirk by a road closure at Balearic Dr. and Asturias. Melody says, "When we were looking for a church in The Village, we stumbled upon Kirk in the Pines. What a God-wink! Everyone was so nice and welcoming that we didn't need to look any further. We love the traditional service, and, of course, the fellowship is beyond compare!"

John was baptized as a Presbyterian but as an adult has been more of a Methodist. Melody grew up Methodist and, with Mariah, the couple's 28 year old daughter, attended a non-denominational church in Olympia. Melody tells an interesting story about their choice to relocate to Hot Springs Village. "We were in town for an Elvis festival and ended up using an Uber from the Little Rock Airport to Hot Springs. The driver was chit-chatting and he really talked a lot about "Hot Springs Village" and how nice it is. We didn't give it much thought because we were in town for "Elvis"!!! When we got back to Olympia, just for giggles and fun, we looked up Hot Springs Village. The more we researched, the more we loved The Village! You know how the story goes. Here we are!"

Melody has worked primarily in business administration and accounting while John, by contrast, is mechanical in nature. John has always been involved with engine building - airplane racing engines ( V-12 and radial) and was part of several racing teams that hold many speed records. He was also involved with high horsepower car engines. Ask him about it. He's built/rebuilt some amazing things. Melody shares that "Mariah has a chromosomal deletion called Williams Syndrome. Most people with Williams Syndrome struggle to function in typical situations, such as life skills, education, work, etc. Mariah has kind of defied these odds." Melody adds, "She graduated high school with honors and went on the graduate with her AA degree with high honors!" She worked at Fred Meyer (similar to Kroger Marketplace) for 3 years before leaving to move to Arkansas. Mariah is actively looking for a job now. "Mariah usually takes a deep dive into whatever piques her interest" according to Melody. She is also said to have all Elvis' recordings and is an avid reader of virtually anything.

The family has already become active participants in Rev. Kane's Bible study. Mariah is a new and already much-loved member of the Kirk Choir. If this story tells you anything it must be that God takes a hand in guiding us in all our moves and has blessed the Kirk with this wonderful family.

***Contributed by Bob Morrow, Communications Committee Moderator***

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## ***Judy Corwin says a BIG thank you for support and prayers***

It is important that I say a BIG thank you to our many members and friends of the Kirk. Bob continues to keep all of us on our toes and now he and I will have help with care givers provided through Hospice. So many of you have called, sent cards, helped with rides, and especially sent prayers for both of our wellbeing.

At this time, all I can say is this detour in our life's journey has been bumpy. There have been roadblocks, potholes, and up and downhill instances with no road map to help us! But the Corwins never have been good at reading road maps, anyway! We appreciate Rev. Jeff and the offers to help. And don't be surprised if I take you up on those offers. For now, prayers and visits are appreciated. Kindly make a reservation since Bob is still a very popular fellow!

Judy Corwin

## Financial Report- Year to Date June 30, 2026

|                                     | <u>June-26</u> | <u>Actual YTD</u> | <u>Budget YTD</u> |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <u>General Fund</u>                 |                |                   |                   |
| Revenues                            | 28,484         | 211,839           | 204,207           |
| Expenses                            | (39,626)       | (187,611)         | (204,207)         |
| Change in Net Assets                | (11,142)       | 24,228            | (0)               |
| <br>\$1 Mission Giving              | <br>327        | <br>1,519         | <br>1,300         |
| <br>Cash Balances                   |                | <br>80,726        |                   |
| <br><u>Texas Presbyterian Funds</u> |                |                   |                   |
| <u>(June 30, 2026)</u>              |                | 1,858,175         |                   |
| Investment Fund                     | 1,266,479      |                   |                   |
| <br><u>Restricted Funds</u>         |                |                   |                   |
| Maack-Ormsbee Scholarship           | 68,718         |                   |                   |
| Memorial Garden                     | 128,977        |                   |                   |
| Choir                               | 11,573         |                   |                   |
| <u>Luke 12:48</u>                   | <u>382,427</u> |                   |                   |
| <b>Total Restricted</b>             | <b>591,695</b> |                   |                   |

## Where do Mission donations come from?

Where do all the Mission donations come from? This was a recent question posed at a Mission Committee meeting.

The simple answer is Our Offerings - the Mission donations sent out from the Kirk are from our gifts and contributions. Each year the Mission Committee sets a giving goal and this year's 2026 goal is one of total mission giving equivalent to 15% of 2026 Kirk contributions.

So how are we doing in reaching the 2026 Mission Goal? Because of your generous sharing of God's abundant gifts, Mission donations disbursed to date totals \$36,000 which equates to approximately 15% of current to date contributions.

How can you continue to help throughout the year? Remember our \$1 Missions offering. Each week every \$1 bill placed in the offering plates goes directly to Missions.

Thank you for working together to fulfill our Kirk mission – Worshipping God, Serving Christ and Loving Others.

*Contributed by Susan Morrow, Finance Committee Moderator*

**GET YOUR CRAFTS READY !**

**Kirk in the Pines Craft Fair**

**Friday, November 13  
Bailey Hall**

**CALLING ALL CRAFTING PEOPLE  
for donations of your wonderful handmade crafts !**

**Donate any kind of craft, woodworking, potholders, ornaments, sewing projects, cards, jewelry, pillows, teddy bears??? Paintings?**

**We need your craft donations now or as soon as possible!**

**There will also be tables for vendors for \$40.00. If you know of anyone that would like to participate, signup information sheets will be forthcoming.**

**So finish your projects now and plan to be part of the Kirk craft fair!**

**For further information call Wendy Gage at 559-970-9834.**

***Heartfelt BIG thank you from Wendy Gage***

Thank you to all of our Kirk family for prayers, food, phone calls, cards, flowers and generally thinking of Barron and me during my recent illness. We are so grateful for all of you and glad that we are a part of all of you.

## ***July 5<sup>th</sup> “Top of the Rock” patriotic concert was a huge success; raised \$467 for Project Hope!***



The Top of the Rock Chorus presented a varied and inspiring program including arrangements of “Let Freedom Ring”, “I’d Like To Teach the World to Sing”, “Heart of America”, and “If I can Dream.”

The Top of the Rock Chorus gave a wonderful gift to the Kirk and Hot Springs Village community in a phenomenal patriotic concert. A love offering was taken which resulted in \$467 for Project Hope Food Bank.



Quartet (from left) Tina Kneisler, Patty Barnes, Karen Wesson, and Kathy Allison. Members of the Top of the Rock Chorus in the background.



Members of the Quadraphonic Quartet (from left) Tina Kneisler, Tamara Boggs, Kristi Ponder, and Ellen Withers.

***Bob Morrow photos***



Attendees at the ice cream social following the concert. The social was courtesy of the Kirk Fellowship Committee.



## August Birthdays

|    |                   |    |                   |    |                |
|----|-------------------|----|-------------------|----|----------------|
| 3  | Barbara McAnarney | 12 | Edie Loveday      | 23 | Carol Clark    |
| 8  | Judy Stewart      | 14 | Beverly Carpenter | 27 | Cynthia Morgan |
| 9  | Jeffrey Kane      | 17 | Robin Terry       |    | Elton Endicott |
| 11 | Melissa Sonnen    | 23 | Pat Koller        | 28 | Jim Hess       |
|    | Barb Henry        |    |                   |    |                |

## August Anniversaries

|    |                     |       |    |                        |       |
|----|---------------------|-------|----|------------------------|-------|
| 1  | Donna & Randy Toney | 45yrs | 16 | Rev. Jeff & Carol Kane | 51yrs |
| 10 | Joyce & Paul Hayek  | 68yrs |    |                        |       |



*to all servants of Christ at the Kirk who  
volunteer time, talent, and ENERGY  
to bring God's Kingdom on  
"earth as it is in heaven."*

## *Worshiping God, Serving Christ, Loving Others*

### Kirk Staff

**Reverend Jeffrey L. Kane- Minister**

**Tina Kneisler-** Music Director

**Chris Taylor-Wilmoth-** Secretary

**Arthur “Chip” Johnson-** Sexton

**Fran Stroud, Donna Toney-**Organists/Pianists

**Patty Barnes-** Saturday Worship Pianist

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### Session

**Clerk of the Session:** Ruth Hamilton

Dave Hamilton- Administration

Robert Sonnen- Building

Donna Toney- Christian Education

Bob Morrow- Communications (Trustee)

Susan Pendergrass- Congregational Care

Vicki Rosenquist- Fellowship (Trustee)

Susan Morrow- Finance

Priscilla Hayek- Grounds/Memorial Garden

Judith Rosenthal- Missions

Wendy Gage- Member Outreach

Jane Moore- Worship (Trustee)

**PW Moderator:** Becky Wakefield

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