



Kirkwood Presbyterian Church

Sunday, July 26, 2026

9th Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering

Welcome and Ministry Announcements

Dr. Yvan Kelly

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

***Opening Hymn**

“Who You Say I Am”

***Call to Worship (from Psalm 119)**

Worship Leader

Leader: The decrees of the Lord are wonderful,

People: The unfolding of God’s word gives light and understanding.

Leader: Turn to us, O God, and be gracious to us.

People: Make your face shine upon your servants.

All: We come together to worship the living God.

A Time for Children

Dr. Yvan Kelly

(Children will go to Sunday School)

Gathering Prayer

Lynne Barnes

Call to Confession

Dr. Yvan Kelly

Prayer of Confession

Dr. Yvan Kelly

People: Lord, you have searched us and found us wanting. You have known our thoughts and called us to better things. You have set us in this world to love and serve you by loving and serving one another, to worship you by tending to those among us. When we fail, do not abandon us. When we go astray, call us back home. Search us O God, and know our hearts. Root out the wicked ways in us, and lead us in the way everlasting.

Leader: Please continue in silent confession....Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Dr. Yvan Kelly

Leader: Friends, hear these words, and listen to this good news;

People: the empires of this world will rise and fall,

Leader: but the mercy of the Lord will never end.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, thanks be to God. Amen.

*please stand

Word

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 29:15-28

Lynne Barnes

Then Laban said to Jacob, “Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?” Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah’s eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, “I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.” Laban said, “It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.” So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

Then Jacob said to Laban, “Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.” So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?” Laban said, “This is not done in our country - giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years.” Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Dr. Yvan Kelly

He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

Reader: The word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

Message “Turning Expectations Upside Down” Dr. Yvan Kelly

***Middle Hymn** Glory to God Hymnal #321 v. 1, 2, & 5
“The Church’s One Foundation”

***Affirmation of Faith** (from the Barmen Declaration)

As Jesus Christ is God’s assurance of the forgiveness of all our sins, so in the same way and with the same seriousness is he also God’s mighty claim upon our whole life. Through him befalls us a joyful deliverance from the godless fetters of this world for a free, grateful service to his creatures. We reject the false doctrine, as though there were areas of our life in which we would not belong to Jesus Christ, but to other lords - areas in which we would not need justification and sanctification through him.

Prayers and Offering

Prayers of the People/The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Giving Thanks to God with Our Gifts and Offerings

Offertory Song

***Doxology**

***Prayer of Dedication**

People: We give you thanks, O God, for the many blessings that you have granted upon us. From even the smallest of seeds, your kingdom grows, bless our tithes, gifts, and offerings, and bless us that we might be ever more faithful in your work of reconciliation, love, and joy. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

Sending

***Closing Hymn** “Firm Foundation”

Charge and Blessing Dr. Yvan Kelly

Announcements

Bunko August 8 - The next Bunko night will be held on Saturday, August 8, at 6:00 p.m. No experience is required, and it's fun for all ages. A \$10.00 donation is asked from each person and includes dessert. Prizes are awarded at the end of the evening.

Blessing of the Backpacks August 9 - On Sunday, August 9, let's send our students and teachers back to school with our prayers and blessings! Students and teachers, please bring your backpacks and briefcases to church for a time of prayer and blessings during worship on August 9.

Session Meeting August 9 - The Session will meet after worship on Sunday, August 9.

Presbyterian Women's Dinner August 10 - On Monday, August 10, all women are invited to attend the Presbyterian Women's Dinner at 6:00 p.m. at Olive Garden, 6050 Youngerman Circle, Jacksonville, 32244. If you plan on attending, please sign up on the sheet on the table in the Narthex.

Broken to Beautiful Support Group Meeting August 13 - The Broken to Beautiful Support Group will meet on Thursday, August 13, at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Dinner and Comedy Show August 29 - DeAndre Stringer will be returning to Kirkwood Presbyterian Church on Saturday, August 29. The evening will start at 6:00 p.m. with a family-style spaghetti and meatball dinner (salad, rolls, dessert, and drinks all included). DeAndre's comedy show starts at 7:00 p.m. Tickets for the Comedy/Dinner show are on sale. See Deborah Ruth to purchase a ticket. Seating is limited, so purchase your tickets soon. The cost is \$30.00 per person (adult or child).

Be Hurricane Season Savvy - The Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network's (FLAPDAN) mission is to support Florida communities through disaster preparedness, response, and recovery by working in partnership with churches and community, government, and faith-based organizations. Click [here](#) to see FLAPDAN's hurricane preparedness tips or visit www.flapdan.org. A flyer is available on the table in the narthex.

Sign-in and Financial Giving - To sign in, scan the QR code. You may also donate by scanning the QR code, placing your offering in the offering plate, dropping off a check at the office, mailing it, or using our online giving portal, which can be accessed [here](#).



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