



Kirkwood Presbyterian Church

Sunday, August 23, 2026
13th 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 67)**

Worship Leader

Leader: Hear O Israel! I am calling! Are you listening?

People: We are here, and we are ready.

Leader: Beloved Children, who do you say that I am?

People: You are our rock and our redeemer. Our trust is in you. Our hearts, minds, and souls belong to you!

Leader: I created you, named you, and have a calling for your life.

People: We give thanks with our whole hearts for your steadfast love!

A Time for Children

Dr. Yvan Kelly

(Children will go to Sunday School)

Gathering Prayer

Don Kent

Call to Confession

Dr. Yvan Kelly

Prayer of Confession

Dr. Yvan Kelly

People: God of truth, like a moth with wool, our brokenness eats away at our souls. We allow the noise of greed, selfishness, apathy, and ignorance to drown out your voice as you call us to see the suffering in our world and respond to the needs of others. In our busy lives, we convince ourselves that there is no time to help, and no time for prayer. Forgive us. Remind us that only when we slow down can our ears hear your voice. Inspire us to greater love for you and for one another.

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

*please stand

Leader: The prophet Isaiah wrote, “Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me.”

People: Jesus promised, “I will give you the keys to the kingdom.”

Leader: We know love and forgiveness because God first loved us and has been calling out to us forever, “You are my beloved!”

People: May we respond to such abundant grace with deep gratitude for God’s unending forgiveness. Through Jesus I am made whole!

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Word

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Don Kent

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, “Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.” Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, “When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.” But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?” The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.” So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, “Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.”

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, “This must be

one of the Hebrews' children," she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading

Romans 12:1-8

Dr. Yvan Kelly

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God - what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Message

"Learning to Hear God"

Dr. Yvan Kelly

***Middle Hymn**

Glory to God Hymnal #8 v. 1, 2, & 4

"Eternal Father, Strong to Save"

***Affirmation of Faith (from The Confession of 1967)**

The new life finds its direction in the life of Jesus, his deeds and words, his struggles against temptation, his compassion, his anger, and his willingness to suffer death. The teaching of apostles and prophets guides men and women in living this life, and the Christian community nurtures and equips them for their ministries. Life in Christ is life eternal. The resurrection of Jesus is the sign that God will consummate the work of creation and reconciliation beyond death and bring to fulfillment the new life begun in Christ. Amen.

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: God of Abundance, we have received blessings from you, and today we hear your call to share our time, our talents, and our treasure with your beloved community. May these gifts bring your light, love, and hope to all who need them. Amen.

Sending

***Closing Hymn**

“Firm Foundation”

Charge and Blessing

Dr. Yvan Kelly

Announcements

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. **The last day to purchase tickets is today, August 23.** 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).

Broken to Beautiful Support Group Meeting September 10 - The Broken to Beautiful Support Group will meet on Thursday, September 10, at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Bunko September 12 - The next Bunko night will be held on Saturday, September 12, 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.

Blood Drive September 13 - On Sunday, September 13, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., the Big Red Bus will be in the parking lot hosting a blood drive. All who donate will receive a \$20.00 eGift card and a wellness check. Visit <https://www.oneblood.org/donate-now> and use sponsor code 31712 to register in advance.

Wills and Gifts Sunday September 13 - On Sunday, September 13, Rev. Dana Walters from the Presbyterian Foundation will be preaching. He is coming from Savannah and will answer questions and lead a discussion about wills and gifts during a lunch provided by the church. Everyone is invited to attend this lunch and learn more about wills and gifts.

Session Meeting September 20 - The Session will meet after worship on Sunday, September 20.

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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