



# NEWSLETTER FOR KIRK OF THE HILLS

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN FAIRFIELD BAY, ARKANSAS

James W. Davis, R.E.M., Pastor

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## Pastor's Pen

Galatians 5:22-23

King James Version

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

<sup>23</sup> Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Greetings, Kirk Family!

What a truly amazing Holy Week we shared together! From the meaningful services to the wonderful spirit of fellowship, it was a powerful time in the life of our church. We were blessed with strong attendance throughout the week, and even though the rain caused us to cancel our planned worship at the cave, we were grateful to gather together here instead. God's presence was felt in every moment. A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who worked so hard to make the week so special—your time, energy, and dedication made all the difference.

I am also honored to share some personal news. I have been invited to serve as part of a CRE Cohort for the Arkansas Presbytery. In this role, I will be walking alongside others as they discern and grow in their own journeys of ministry—much like I have been doing over the past year and a half. It is a privilege to give back in this way, and I look forward to attending my first meeting at the end of April.

We are excited to begin gathering again for **The Chosen, Monday nights at 5:00 PM**. While attendance has been a bit low this season, this is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship, discussion, and spiritual growth. Let's come together and build that momentum again—we would love to see you there.

Please also join me in warmly welcoming Grant Worden as a new member of our congregation! Many of you already know him but be sure to take a moment to greet him and let him know how glad we are that he is officially part of our church family.

As we look ahead, May is National Mental Health Awareness Month. This is a time to recognize the importance of caring not only for our physical health but also for our mental and emotional well-being. As a church, we are called to be a community of compassion, support, and understanding. Let us be mindful of one another, offer encouragement where it is needed, and remember that it is okay to seek help. We can reflect Christ's love by creating a space where people feel safe, valued, and heard.

On **May 24th**, we will celebrate the **Day of Pentecost**. In the Presbyterian tradition, Pentecost marks the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles, empowering them to go out into the world and boldly share the good news of Jesus Christ. It is often considered the "birthday of the Church," reminding us that we are a Spirit-filled people, called to live with courage, unity, and purpose as we continue Christ's mission.

The following Sunday, **May 31st, is Trinity Sunday**. This is a time when we reflect on the mystery and beauty of the Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. While the concept of the Trinity can be difficult to fully understand, it reminds us that God is relational and invites us into that relationship. In the PC(USA), Trinity Sunday encourages us to celebrate the fullness of God's presence in our lives and in the world.

Thank you all for being such a faithful and loving community. I am grateful to be on this journey with you.

With gratitude and peace,  
Pastor Jim

The Session met on April 13, 2026. Pastor Jim noted Dianne Traylor, Linda Davis, Becky Staton, Joy Gregg, Bob Bickers, Dorie Shunnerson and Grant Worden's mother were in need of prayers. Grant Worden was scheduled to be received into membership during the Worship service on April 19, 2026.

Financial report indicated contributions are still behind last year's but that should improve when required minimum distributions are met.

Kirk Men's Club balance is \$7,197.37. The new bollards to protect the new digital sign have been installed, and there are plans to shorten and reinstall the table that once sat against the front wall of the sanctuary under the Trinity window.

Mission Committee spent approximately \$225 for the Shirley Schools food program. The Dementia Support Group's first meeting went well, despite limited attendance.

The new digital sign proved useful during Holy Week, particularly announcing the relocating of the Sunrise service from the Cave to the Kirk. Volunteers for the Audio/Visual team are needed to run the system during worship services and to prepare slides for the screen. Training is available.

Worship Committee reported the following attendance statistics from Holy Week: Maundy Thursday, 23; Good Friday, 29; Easter Sunrise, 34, a large number of whom were visitors; and Easter 10 AM, 31. The shroud from the outside cross was removed but one will remain on the cross in the sanctuary until Pentecost.

*Skip Davis, Clerk of Session*

**MAY 25**

**MEMORIAL DAY**



REMEMBER AND HONOR

**WORSHIP**

Holy Week is here and gone but Easter is with us always! Every Sunday we celebrate the Risen Christ. We know that everything we do and are, is because Jesus died for OUR sins and then was Resurrected to show us that death is not the final answer.

We all know that 40 is a significant number in the Bible. Christ roamed the earth for 40 days before he ascended into Heaven. During this time, he instructed and prepared his Disciples for what was to come and how to proceed after he was gone. He told them to wait for "power from on high."

After His ascension, there were ten days of waiting, prayer and preparation. Then, drum roll please, Pentecost! Talk about a "power from on high". Wow! The Holy Spirit descends on the Apostles (definition: one who is sent out) and empowers them to spread the Gospel! Many consider this as the birth of the Christian Church.

May is a month of celebrations. May Day, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, and back in our day, graduations usually occurred in May. This month (and every month) celebrate your walk with the Lord!

*Karen Ostlund, Worship Elder*



The Mission Committee continues to support the Shirley school food bank and student backpack programs. The backpack initiative continues for the students throughout the summer months



# Financial Report

# STEWARDSHIP

Financial revenue in March 2026 was \$10,360.98. Revenue increased during the month by \$1,285.73 due to increased contributions to the General Fund. Church expenses during the month were \$8,684.01. Expenses during the month decreased by \$4,796.72 when compared to February 2026. Exceptional expenses for the month included increased electrical usage, a scheduled pulpit fill, and a restocking of fellowship supplies. Kirk's investment account decreased by \$7,841.75 in March due to a falling stock market. Kirk continues to maintain two bank accounts and three Certificate of Deposit accounts with Eagle Bank in Fairfield Bay. In addition, the Kirk holds a Mutual Fund Investment account through the Presbyterian Foundation.

Wayne Slaughter, Stewardship/Finance Elder

## 2026 KIRK FINANCIAL CORNER

	<u>MARCH</u>	<u>Year to date</u>
Revenue	\$10,360.98	\$24,196.20
Expenses	\$ 8,684.01	\$31,966.19
Net	<u>\$ 1,676.97</u>	<u>\$(7,769.99)</u>

## MAY CHURCH CALENDAR

- 5/2 – Tea Party fundraiser - Activities Center.
- 5/6 – Kirk Men's Club- 8:30 am -Upper Room.
- 5/7 – National Day of Prayer.
- 5/9 – Master Gardener's Annual Plant Sale  
VBC Fair Grounds, Clinton – 9 – 1pm
- 5/10 – Mother's Day.
- 5/11 – Session -Upper Room - 9 AM.
- 5/12 – Community Fund Committee- 2:30 pm  
in the Upper Room.
- 5/15 – Friends meets at 1 PM.
- 5/23 – Alzheimer's Support group -11:00 am  
in the Upper Room.
- 5/24 – Pentecost Sunday.
- 5/25 – Memorial Day. Church office is closed.

May 4<sup>th</sup> marks Legacy Living Sunday in the PC(USA), a time to consider how each of us might contribute to the world beyond our lifetime. While the common approach often focuses on the technical details of wills and the legal instruments of planned giving, these conversations can sometimes feel too linear and less inspiring. Instead, it may be more meaningful to reflect on how God is calling us to make a lasting impact that goes beyond mere documentation and planning.

Karl Mattison, Vice President of Planned Giving Resources at the Presbyterian Foundation, notes that most of us are actively using about 95% of our possessions—our homes, retirement accounts, and other assets are either in use or reserved for future needs. Eventually, however, we will have to decide who will benefit from these assets when we no longer need them.

“For most of us, it's the biggest gift we will ever make,” Karl explains. With thoughtful planning, you manage your accumulated assets and define the legacy you will leave. Including your legacy of faith in these plans can be a transformative gift, greatly impacting the causes and communities you care about. It enables you to share God's material blessings with the church and help further its mission. This process not only supports the congregation but also ensures that your values and faith continue to have an impact.

A charitable bequest allows you to retain full control of your assets during your lifetime, while providing the peace of mind that your will reflects your faith and stewardship principles.

*Wayne Slaughter, Session Finance Elder*



**Wear red, yellow, or orange  
on Pentecost Sunday 5/24**



## May

- 5/3 Herby Yates
- 5/12 Alesa Collins
- 5/20 Jerry Laitgar



NO May Anniversaries

## APRIL VOLUNTEERS

### Ushers



5/17 Mary Davis

### Liturgists

- 5/3 Greg Staton
- 5/10 Becky Staton
- 5/17 Karen Ostlund
- 5/24 Kay Otis
- 5/31 Nancy Mueller

### Fellowship

- 5/3 Kay Otis
- 5/10 Men's Club
- 5/17 Mary & Jim Davis
- 5/24 Karen & Ken Ostlund
- 5/31 Betsy Slaughter

## Easter Sunday April 5, 2026



## MASTER'S GARDEN has begun to bloom!



Wayne Slaughter has been working hard to get the Master's Garden and front flower beds in shape this spring. A big thank you to Ken Ostlund for helping to repair the sprinkler.