

Please remember to include the Kirk in your estate planning and please feel free to contact Pastor Nate at (248) 973-8003, or revndp@kirkinthehills.org with any questions.

HOW TO PLEDGE

Pledging is the act of informing the church what you plan to give either monthly or over the course of a year. This helps the Kirk to plan financially for a year of worship, formation, and outreach.

To pledge online and set up easy recurring payments, please go to:
kirkinthehills.org/give

Mail your envelope to the church or drop it off by October 25.

Additional pledge forms can be emailed to you. Please contact Karen Bowman at (248) 973-8009 or kbowman@kirkinthehills.org

MADE WELL

2021 ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

We envision a world
where every heart experiences
God's transforming love.



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A LETTER FROM PASTOR NATE

The ending of the Waltons has always stuck with me.

Do you remember that show?

It was made in the seventies and set in the thirties and forties, telling the tale of a depression era Appalachian family just trying to get by. Seven children lived together with parents and grandparents and at the end of every episode they showed the house after dark, with lights in a few windows, and then the voices came.

“Good night Mama.”

“Good night Daddy.”

“Good night children.”

“Good night Elizabeth.”

“Good night John-Boy.”

And on it went.

Some Waltons episodes were about the poverty they faced, others about ailments they had, others depicted a crisis in the community, others taught a tough life lesson. The way the show ended reminded all of us that, no matter what happened over the course of the day, they knew they had one another.

The show always ended the same way, with the family coming together as one. This is how we have been made too. We are made well!

In the book of Exodus, after the people fled Pharaoh and crossed the Red Sea, God told them, “you are my treasured possession.”

When Jesus was on the cross, he invited the beloved disciple and his mother to join together as family when he was gone.

And, when the church was still young, the apostle Peter told them, “you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people.”

Over and again, God is making us into a community, making us well.

This year has been an “episode” unlike any other. But, like with the Waltons, we still have each other. Over the course of this year’s annual giving campaign, through this brochure and future videos, you are going to see how



STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship is a spiritual practice consisting of prayer, Scripture reading and service. We believe it is important to discern how the Spirit is calling you to live out your discipleship and what excites you about the Kirk through giving. We invite you to set aside time as an individual or family to thoughtfully and prayerfully reflect on the following questions:

- What does the Kirk mean to you?
- What excites you about the Kirk?
- What are your hopes for the future direction of the Kirk as your church home?
- What percentage of my income is God calling me to give to the mission of the church?

As you ponder these questions, consider three different levels of impact you can make. The suggested commitment levels and giving percentages may not fit for all members but can be used as a guide

SUSTAINING CHURCH

The Kirk has been and remains a significant part of your spiritual life and you are committed to supporting the ongoing ministry. *The guideline to achieve this is 2-3% of annual income.*

VISIONARY CHURCH

The Kirk is a central community in your life and you are committed to expanding the programs and ministries of the Kirk. *The guideline to achieve this is 4-7% of annual income.*

TRANSFORMATIVE CHURCH

You are deeply committed to the Kirk. Your contribution is intended to provide a level of support that fuels the transformation of the Kirk as it adjusts to the evolving future needs of the church. *The guideline to achieve this is 8-10% of annual income.*

If you are not currently giving to the Kirk or are a new member, then please consider becoming a Foundational Giver by giving \$50-100 a month. Of course, a gift of any amount is appreciated!

MISSION



WE ARE MADE WELL IN SERVICE

Our Kirk family extends beyond the church into the community. We have a mission to share God's love and work for healing in our neighboring communities and around the world. Pandemic or not, we are called to be the hands and feet of Christ in our world today!

Following are ways we have engaged with our community and continue to make our community well:

- Creating COVID-19 Relief Fund
- Collecting 35 bags of essential items for foster care youth
- Helping Building Blocks 4 Kids with a semi-truck load of beds
- Providing \$2000 worth of canned goods for Lighthouse by Kirk West
- Participating in Habitat for Humanity Detroit clean-up project
- Contributing to Seki Women's Foundation in South Africa for meals, new kitchen appliances, medical supplies and steel security doors
- Contributing to *Pontiac Backpack Rally*
- Raising money to eliminate 2.8 million in medical debt in the City of Pontiac
- Delivering essential meals and restocking food pantries for our Pontiac mission partners
- Providing Accent Pontiac families with internet access for virtual school, porch lessons, as well as movement, songwriting and production classes
- Providing Kirk Tutors with internet access for virtual school; board games, toys, bikes and art supplies
- Developing Kirk-FAM membership for our online worshipers
- Inviting the community to weekly *Yoga by the Lake*

we have been made well - and how we have contributed to the way that God is making all things well. God is displaying his healing power in the way that we have been formed and shaped together as a community during this episode.

It seems to me that things are as Jon-Boy Walton once narrated, "A house alone has little meaning, it's the people who live there who bring it to life and give it character. Time's inexorable march bring constant changes and challenges to the people on Walton's Mountain (or Kirk in the Hills!). Happily for us, the closeness of our family seemed always to temper life's harsher moments."

May this year's annual giving campaign be like the Waltons wishing one another goodnight - an opportunity to remind one another that, at the end of the day, **we are still close to one another here.** Let our pledges, whatever their size, communicate that we still care, we still have hope, and we are still connected by the Spirit of God's love.

Stay warm,

Pastor Nate



WORSHIP



WE ARE MADE WELL IN GOD

We are a worshiping community, and we believe that God makes us well through worship. When shelter-in-place was announced in March, we knew sanctuary worship had to be suspended for a while. However, God faithfully brought us together through creative ways of worshiping, making us well in ways we could have never imagined!

Following are ways God made us well and continues to make us well through worship:

- The Kirk began live streaming worship services when COVID-19 started
- Small Groups continue to meet weekly on Zoom
- Radio broadcasting of Sunday worship service
- Weekly carillon concerts in the parking lot
- In-person Garden Service
- Weddings, funerals and baptisms with proper social-distancing
- Virtual and live communion services
- Confirmation service for 15 youth
- Children's prayer vigil video where children and families share prayers for the healing of the world

FORMATION



WE ARE MADE WELL IN EACH OTHER

Many of us struggle with isolation during this season of social-distancing. So we have continued to remain connected and grow in faith even though we can't be together in person. Through virtual small groups, Bible studies and special classes/events, our faith has grown and community has flourished during this time of pandemic.

Following are ways we have been made well and how our faith continues to be formed:

- Fourteen virtual small groups that meet on weekly basis
- Adult fall series on healing: *Be Well: Healing Narratives in the Bible* with renowned theologians
- Daily Made Well Video Devotional featuring different church members each day for ten weeks
- Virtual Vacation Bible School and Sunday school for Pre-k to grade 5
- Weekly bedtime stories for children and families
- In-person Sunday school for mid-highs, youth group around the campfire, and choir practice for all ages
- Care packages delivered to youth and college students
- Series of panel discussions on dealing with COVID-19 from experts in our community at the beginning of pandemic
- *Around the World in Five Weeks* series in April-May that highlighted how other Christians are dealing with the pandemic in other countries
- *Summer Writers Table* in June, July and August where three outstanding Christian writers shared their writing and experiences via Zoom.
- *Move and Learn* in March and April where children connected on Zoom everyday