

THE KIRK KONNECTION

Editor: Carolyn Marnon

September 2023



Guest columnist Rev. Walter Canter

I'm absolutely engrossed in Isaiah right now. As a pastor, I find reasons to locate myself all around the Bible. I tend to preach out of the Revised Common Lectionary, open meetings with psalms or microdoses of epistle or gospel texts, and I teach Bible studies based on the interests of my congregation, wherever that may lead. But when I am in my little happy place of personal scriptural devotion and study, I am the sort who obsesses.

I used to wish that my relationship with scripture was the sort that reads through the Bible every year. I would make plans, use checklists, and get into rhythms. I would try to force myself to get through every word of the Bible over the course of twelve months. I'd try to read cover to cover. I had plans that mixed new and old testament readings. I followed the daily lectionary, which covers the whole Bible in two years. I tried it all. None of it clicked with me. No matter what I tried, it felt like I was forcing my way through the words. It felt like drag. It became a chore to read the Bible.

I went through a phase where, other than the scripture reading necessary for my work, I was not spending time in scripture anymore. I couldn't make sense of the contrast between my theology of scripture as good news about God that comes across in my work and the eye heavy dryness of my personal reading. It took me a while to realize that the way I was approaching the Bible in my personal life was hurting my relationship with it. I was approaching the Bible the way I approach long distance running, in terms of how I can handle the pain and push to the finish, which was not a spiritually fulfilling way to engage a holy text (it is a great way to crush a 22 mile trail run though).

At some point, I realized what I was doing. I noticed that I found my work with scripture fulfilling because I approached the text with the assumption of it being good news and that I found my personal engagement with scripture unfulfilling because I approached the text with the assumption of it being painful. I needed to let myself be as open to the wonderings of the Holy Spirit in my personal devotion as I was in my sermon preparation. Actually, I needed to be even more open.

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I broke my Bible reading drought while I was preparing for a sermon. I don't remember the exact text, but there was a parallel in or an obscure reference to a passage in 1 Chronicles, and I realized that it had been ages since I read anything out of Chronicles. I was moved by curiosity and wonder to go back to it. I became obsessed with 1 and 2 Chronicles. For about two months, that's what I read. Some days I read chapter after chapter, other days just a few verses and then sat looking out the window for ten minutes, but I read every day. The experience renewed my sense of wonder in the Bible. I allowed the words to sink into me, allowed the stories to disturb and confuse and comfort and inspire. I gave myself permission to ask stupid questions. I looked up some answers to questions in the Bible Dictionary, but other questions I let linger... and that felt right. It was wonderful. It was literally a reading full of wonder.

Then I got to the end of 2 Chronicles. Without hesitation, I dove into 1 Peter. Why 1 Peter? I haven't the slightest clue, but I devoured it. And the chain continued, bouncing from obsession to obsession, reinvigorating my love of these words, the power of these words, the play and wonder and my curiosity in these words, these living, breathing, crazy, wonderful, powerful words.

There is no single 'right' way to read scripture. There is a single Spirit who moves through us and moves us into the text in the way that speaks joy and meaning to each of us. Reading through the Bible on a year or two-year cycle is a beautiful practice for many Christians. If that is your gravy, keep it up; that's awesome. It's been a long time since I last read the Bible cover to cover, and that's okay. Because right now, I'm obsessed with Isaiah, and through Isaiah, the word lives inside me.



September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 7:30-9pm Alamon-Lounge	2
3 10:30am Worship	4 7:30-9pm BiPolar Depression Support Group Meeting-Lounge	5 6-8pm Girl Scouts	6	7	8 7:30-9pm Alamon-Lounge	9
10 10:30am Worship	11 7:30-9pm BiPolar Depression Support Group Meeting-Lounge	12 6-8pm Girl Scouts	13	14	15 7:30-9pm Alamon-Lounge	16
17 10:30am Worship Lunch in Fellowship Hall after worship	18 7:30-9pm BiPolar Depression Support Group Meeting-Lounge	19 6-8pm Girl Scouts	20	21	22 7:30-9pm Alamon-Lounge	23
24 10:30am Worship	25 7:30-9pm BiPolar Depression Support Group Meeting-Lounge	26 6-8pm Girl Scouts	27	28	29 7:30-9pm Alamon-Lounge	30

October 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30am Worship	2 7:30-9pm BiPolar Depression Support Group Meeting-Lounge	3 6-8pm Girl Scouts	4	5	6 7:30-9pm Alamon-Lounge	7

LEARN THROUGH PLAY PRESCHOOL

The month of August was filled with fun, adventure, exploration, and popsicles. Our students enjoyed our weekly water play days as well as the excitement of the foam machine. We spent a lot of time outside exploring the world around us. Our final week of summer camp concluded with a carnival theme in which the students were treated to face paint.

Many of our students said goodbye as they headed back to school or off to Kindergarten. What a sad but exciting time!

Our long-time teacher, Ms. Maggie, is heading off to pursue a career in firefighting. While we will certainly miss her we are extremely proud of the hard work and dedication she put in to her studies and testing. Go get 'em, Ms. Maggie! We pray that you are kept safe from harm while on the job.

Fall classes will be starting next week and we are so excited to welcome some new students to our program. Stay tuned for updates on the new school year!

Ms. Tara



Financial Report as of 7/31/2023

	July	Year to Date	Budget
Income	10,646	62,123	58,900
Expenses	8,888	69,594	66,617
Net Income or Loss	1,758	-7,471	-7,717
Liquid Assets*	81,882	81,882	

* equals the total for Kirk checking, savings, and mutual funds.
Does not include Thank God 4 Christian Parents Fund.

July was a good month and was helped by a \$1,000 gain in Kirk Mutual Funds as well as being a 5 collection month. Revenues and expenses were in line with budgets disregarding the funds gain but overall we are very near budget for the year to date bottom line. Liquid assets have risen slightly from June despite another small sale of Mutual Funds for future use.



JUST **THE** FACTS



Please join us on Sunday, September 17 for lunch in Fellowship Hall after worship.



The mission of the Kirk of Our Savior is to glorify God, nurture new and existing relationships, and bear witness to our faith and divine calling through worship, service, stewardship and prayer.

It is the vision of this church to become a living example of God's love, called to show Christ to those within the church community by offering ourselves in service to those in need and inviting all to share in this vision.

SEPTEMBER



BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Madeline Carpenter
9 Theodore Beckman

HOW CAN WE
PRAY
FOR YOU?

2023 PER CAPITA

The 2023 Per Capita charge per Kirk member is now \$36. The increase is in accordance with the amount that the Presbytery passed on to the church. Payment can be made using the Per Capita envelope in the giving box or any method you choose to designate the funds. Thank you.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Nancy Lee Pride (2024)

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

CHILDREN & YOUTH

MISSION/OUTREACH

Mieke Beckman (2025) Chairman and Elder

June Jennings (2025) Elder

FOUNDATION

Rob Otte (2024) Chairman and Elder

NEW ELDER

Bob Cindric (2025)

TREASURER: Fred Kirk

CLERK: June Jennings

The membership of Kirk of Our Savior approved changes to the by-laws in 2022 which eliminated the Board of Deacons. The number of Elders serving was also decreased from six to five. The Elders will now serve a 2-year term rather than the 3 years they had served previously.

A publication for the family and friends of
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September 2023 Daily Lectionary

These Scripture readings are from the two-year daily lectionary of the Presbyterian Book of Common Worship (Westminster John Knox Press, 2018). The readings from the three-year Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals are not included in this document.

[Year One]

Friday, September 1

Morning: Pss. 88; 148
Evening: Pss. 6; 20
1 Kings 5:1–6:1, 7
Acts 28:1–16
Mark 14:27–42

Saturday, September 2

Morning: Pss. 122; 149
Evening: Pss. 100; 63
1 Kings 7:51–8:21
Acts 28:17–31
Mark 14:43–52

Sunday, September 3

Morning: Pss. 108; 150
Evening: Pss. 66; 23
1 Kings 8:22–30 (31–40)
1 Tim. 4:7b–16
John 8:47–59

Monday, September 4

Morning: Pss. 62; 145
Evening: Pss. 73; 9
2 Chron. 6:32–7:7
James 2:1–13
Mark 14:53–65

Tuesday, September 5

Morning: Pss. 12; 146
Evening: Pss. 36; 7
1 Kings 8:65–9:9
James 2:14–26
Mark 14:66–72

Wednesday, September 6

Morning: Pss. 96;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 132; 134
1 Kings 9:24–10:13
James 3:1–12
Mark 15:1–11

Thursday, September 7

Morning: Pss. 116;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 26; 130
1 Kings 11:1–13
James 3:13–4:12
Mark 15:12–21

Friday, September 8

Morning: Pss. 84; 148
Evening: Pss. 25; 40
1 Kings 11:26–43
James 4:13–5:6
Mark 15:22–32

Saturday, September 9

Morning: Pss. 63; 149
Evening: Pss. 125; 90
1 Kings 12:1–20
James 5:7–20
Mark 15:33–39

Sunday, September 10

Morning: Pss. 103; 150
Evening: Pss. 117; 139
1 Kings 12:21–33
Acts 4:18–31
John 10:31–42

Monday, September 11

Morning: Pss. 5; 145
Evening: Pss. 82; 29
1 Kings 13:1–10
Phil. 1:1–11
Mark 15:40–47

Tuesday, September 12

Morning: Pss. 42; 146
Evening: Pss. 102; 133
1 Kings 16:23–34
Phil. 1:12–30
Mark 16:1–8 (9–20)

Wednesday, September 13

Morning: Pss. 89:1–18;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 1; 33
1 Kings 17:1–24
Phil. 2:1–11
Matt. 2:1–12

Thursday, September 14

Morning: Pss. 97;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 16; 62
1 Kings 18:1–19
Phil. 2:12–30
Matt. 2:13–23

Friday, September 15

Morning: Pss. 51; 148
Evening: Pss. 142; 65
1 Kings 18:20–40
Phil. 3:1–16
Matt. 3:1–12

Saturday, September 16

Morning: Pss. 104; 149
Evening: Pss. 138; 98
1 Kings 18:41–19:8
Phil. 3:17–4:7
Matt. 3:13–17

Sunday, September 17

Morning: Pss. 19; 150
Evening: Pss. 81; 113
1 Kings 19:8–21
Acts 5:34–42
John 11:45–57

Monday, September 18

Morning: Pss. 135; 145
 Evening: Pss. 97; 112
 1 Kings 21:1–16
 1 Cor. 1:1–19
 Matt. 4:1–11

Tuesday, September 19

Morning: Pss. 123; 146
 Evening: Pss. 30; 86
 1 Kings 21:17–29
 1 Cor. 1:20–31
 Matt. 4:12–17

**Wednesday,
September 20**

Morning: Pss. 15;
 147:1–11
 Evening: Pss. 48; 4
 1 Kings 22:1–28
 1 Cor. 2:1–13
 Matt. 4:18–25

Thursday, September 21

Morning: Pss. 36;
 147:12–20
 Evening: Pss. 80; 27
 1 Kings 22:29–45
 1 Cor. 2:14–3:15
 Matt. 5:1–10

Friday, September 22

Morning: Pss. 130; 148
 Evening: Pss. 32; 139
 2 Kings 1:2–17
 1 Cor. 3:16–23
 Matt. 5:11–16

Saturday, September 23

Morning: Pss. 56; 149
 Evening: Pss. 118; 111
 2 Kings 2:1–18
 1 Cor. 4:1–7
 Matt. 5:17–20

Sunday, September 24

Morning: Pss. 67; 150
 Evening: Pss. 46; 93
 2 Kings 4:8–37
 Acts 9:10–31
 Luke 9:7–19

Monday, September 25

Morning: Pss. 57; 145
 Evening: Pss. 85; 47
 2 Kings 5:1–19
 1 Cor. 4:8–21
 Matt. 5:21–26

Tuesday, September 26

Morning: Pss. 54; 146
 Evening: Pss. 28; 99
 2 Kings 5:19–27
 1 Cor. 5:1–8
 Matt. 5:27–37

**Wednesday,
September 27**

Morning: Pss. 65;
 147:1–11
 Evening: Pss. 125; 91
 2 Kings 6:1–23
 1 Cor. 5:9–6:11
 Matt. 5:38–48

Thursday, September 28

Morning: Pss. 143;
 147:12–20
 Evening: Pss. 81; 116
 2 Kings 9:1–16
 1 Cor. 6:12–20
 Matt. 6:1–6, 16–18

Friday, September 29

Morning: Pss. 88; 148
 Evening: Pss. 6; 20
 2 Kings 9:17–37
 1 Cor. 7:1–9
 Matt. 6:7–15

Saturday, September 30

Morning: Pss. 122; 149
 Evening: Pss. 100; 63
 2 Kings 11:1–20a
 1 Cor. 7:10–24
 Matt. 6:19–24