

THE KIRK KONNECTION

Editor: Carolyn Marnon

June 2023



Care Village Update by guest columnist Bob Cindric

As many of you know, I paid a quick, unplanned visit to Care Village May 1st through the 24th – unplanned because I was expecting to be entertaining the MCV (Middelburg Care Village) General Manager, Rehandre Landman, here in Michigan mid-April through mid-May. With Rehandre's unexpected resignation, I felt it would be wise to visit MCV to check in on the children and the staff and assist where I could.

It was a very auspicious trip as I found many opportunities to support the children on several fronts. First, many were having difficulty adjusting to their new school, St. Peter Christian College. The Care Village Board of Directors, with pledges of support from Care Village Outreach, our non-profit here in the U.S., had decided to enroll the majority of the MCV children in this private school to afford them the best possible opportunity for a sound education. As you might imagine, the upgrade in expectations and environment made for a very difficult transition for many of the children. I have created an incentive program in cooperation with the St. Peter's teaching staff whereby the children attend a fast food meal at the end of each month if they attend school daily, have their school uniform properly fitted, and exhibit a good effort in class. I had the privilege of attending the incentive meal for the month of May and the children felt very proud.

One of our children entered a spelling bee in her eighth grade class. She worked so hard! I practiced the spelling list of 50 words with her for many hours per day leading up to the big event. When we started, she could not even pronounce most of the words. Yet, she asked me daily to sit with her and practice for hours. We practiced on the bus to school every morning. The day of the spelling bee was my final day at Care Village. As I was finishing packing for my return trip home, she ran to my room to let me know that she had WON! This wonderful child now believes in herself and has entered the next level of the spelling bee.

I have made contact with two of the most amazing men who are committed to helping change the lives of our Care Village children. Bongani, a volunteer who heads a non-profit, has arranged for professional soccer and netball coaches to train our children three days a week. They will be entered into tournaments which will enable the children to keep busy in a fun, enjoyable manner (check out the photos of the children with their new coaches!).



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Sarai is a man who has inspired children for many years with his Technocrats, another non-profit designed to introduce young people to science and robotics. This man is brilliant and is so committed to kids – very inspiring! Sarai has been able to repurpose old electronic devices that no longer function into tools to help educate the children.



Lastly, I want to let you know how the spark you have ignited in helping the children celebrate their birthdays. The support has become contagious in Middelburg. As you probably know, members of the Kirk have been contributing toward birthday gifts for the children for the past three years. Kirk members coordinate with Mieke Beckman in pledging \$20 per child so that each of them can go to the mall during their birthday month and purchase gifts for themselves. As I have announced in worship on many occasions, the joy that the children experience is beautiful to witness. People at the mall have become aware of the generosity extended by people from the U.S. for these children and several businesses have come onboard to help make birthdays even more special. One business owner sells electronics to them at cost. Another gives them 10% off anything in their apparel store. A local shop owner gave me 30% off soccer balls for them. The owner of Panarotti's, an Italian restaurant in the mall, has pledged to have the children for a meal in the month of their birthday. The attached photo shows our May birthday children with the owner of Panarotti's and his wife.



Thank you, Kirk of Our Savior session and congregation, for igniting this flame of love and care in people from the Middelburg community. Because of you, the children truly feel special on their own special days! They really do feel the love that you offer them through your gifts and your prayers: you hold a very prominent place in the hearts of 108 children in South Africa!

Bob



LEARN THROUGH PLAY PRESCHOOL

Greetings from the preschool!

May brought us so much adventure! We took a field trip to the Farmington Hills Nature center, located in beautiful Heritage Park, and walked the nature trails with our guide as she taught us how we could use our senses to explore nature. Back at the nature museum we had the opportunity to meet and touch a pet rat; while I personally ran away when I realized what the guide was holding, the students loved her! We finished our day with a picnic lunch and some time on the playground.

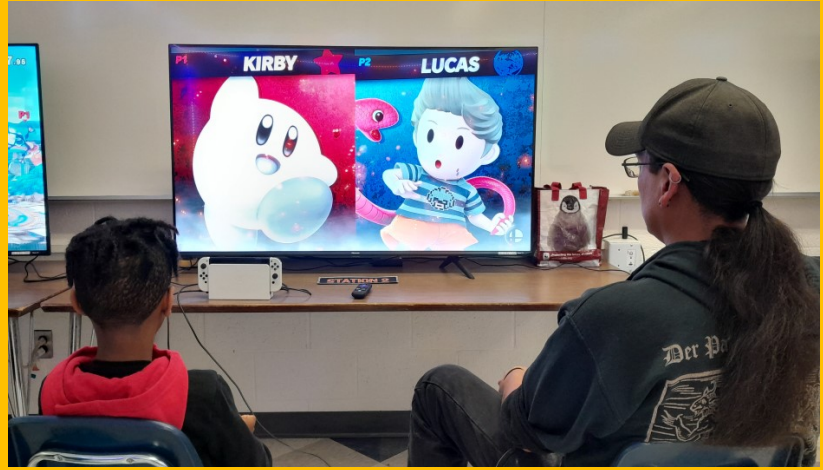
We are just one week away from the end of our traditional school year. It's always a bittersweet time knowing we will say goodbye to some of our friends but the joy comes with knowing they are better prepared for the transition into kindergarten. We celebrate the lessons learned, the friendships made, and the memories that will last forever.

Ms. Tara



Stevenson Middle School Appreciates the Kirk

Pastor Mike was invited to attend an E-Sports afterschool practice last month at Stevenson. He brought his brother and sister-in-law (Joe and Veronica Beckman) along. Joe is an enthusiastic gamer. In the photo below right, he's playing "Smash Brothers" with Wes, who is virtually unbeatable in the game. Students also play "Rocket League" which they are undefeated playing in competition this year!



Madeline Carpenter, NancyLee Pride and Pastor Mike Beckman sit with Stevenson Principal Kim Doman at the school district breakfast honoring Kirk of Our Savior as Stevenson Middle School's

Donor of the Year.

"We are beyond grateful for the partnership we have and the impact it has and will continue to have on our Stevenson community." (Stevenson Middle School facebook post).

The picture above is from the night that Stevenson staff were treated to an appreciation gelato truck funded by Kirk of Our





Can you find Madeline, NancyLee and Pastor Mike in this photo of Stevenson Middle School honorees?



| Financial Report as of 4/30/2023 | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------|--------------|--------|
| | April | Year to Date | Budget |
| Income | 10,480 | 38,089 | 33,657 |
| Expenses | 9,848 | 40,374 | 39,422 |
| Net Income or Loss | 632 | -2,285 | -5,765 |
| Liquid Assets* | 87,598 | 87,598 | |

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

April numbers were better because of 5 collection periods and the Easter season. May will be impacted by payment of our entire insurance annual payment. We took advantage of our copier lease ending to purchase it at a discount using some of our own mutual funds that will also eventually pay for the insurance cost.
We are currently performing better than budget despite high seasonal gas bills during 2023.

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.



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 6 Betty Willox
- 6 Colleen Williamson
- 26 Mark Gallaher
- 28 Dave Thomas



NEW!

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.



Middelburg Care Village birthday sponsorships are going well! Birthdays through most of the summer have been covered by many generous donors. There will be plenty left for the rest of the year. The cost is \$20 to sponsor a child, and each and every child is so grateful for your support.

Please contact Mieke Beckman if interested.

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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Invited



gracesmuggler

May 30



Pentecost Sunday, Kirk of Our Savior

I walked among the congregation and called upon anyone who raised their hand. They were sharing joys and concerns with one another before we had a time of prayer. Folks shared about their neighbors and friends who were recovering from medical needs. Then a kind man raised his hand, and I walked over to him next.

"I'm glad you're here!" he said.

I smiled and thanked him. I thanked all of them. "You always welcome me so warmly," I added. I am a guest preacher for their congregation from time to time.

And that had me thinking back to something a colleague of mine once said. Rev. Denise Anderson said this (I'm paraphrasing from what I remember):

"There's a big difference between saying, 'You can come,' and 'You're invited.'"

One is much more welcoming. In this community, I always feel the second. And I'm glad for any occasion when we can give from this message and receive from this message.

-[Renee Roederer](#)

Rev. Renee Roeder was our guest pastor on Pentecost Sunday. She publishes a blog called Smuggling Grace where she shared about her visit at the Kirk. She kindly gave her permission to share it here.

June 2023

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--------------------------|---|-----|--|-----|---------------------------------|-----|
| | | | | 1 | 2 7:30-9pm Alamon-Lounge | 3 |
| 4 10:30am Worship | 5 7:30-9pm BiPolar Depression Support Group Meet- ing-Lounge | 6 | 7 1pm Bible Study- "The Call" Lounge | 8 | 9 7:30-9pm Alamon-Lounge | 10 |
| 11 10:30am Worship | 12 7:30-9pm BiPolar Depression Support Group Meet- ing-Lounge | 13 | 14 1pm Bible Study- "The Call" Lounge | 15 | 16 7:30-9pm Alamon-Lounge | 17 |
| 18 10:30am Worship | 19 7:30-9pm BiPolar Depression Support Group Meet- ing-Lounge | 20 | 21 1pm Bible Study- "The Call" Lounge | 22 | 23 7:30-9pm Alamon-Lounge | 24 |
| 25 10:30am Worship | 26 7:30-9pm BiPolar Depression Support Group Meet- ing-Lounge | 27 | 28 1pm Bible Study- "The Call" Lounge | 29 | 30 7:30-9pm Alamon-Lounge | |

July 2023

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-------------------------|--|-----|---|-----|------------------------------------|-----|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 10:30am Worship | 3 7:30-9pm BiPolar Depression Support Group Meet- | 4 | 5 1pm Bible Study-"The Call" Lounge | 6 | 7 7:30-9pm Alamon- Lounge | 8 |

June 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]

Thursday, June 1

Morning: Pss. 36;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 80; 27
Deut. 4:32–40
2 Cor. 3:1–18
Luke 16:1–9

Friday, June 2

Morning: Pss. 130; 148
Evening: Pss. 32; 139
Deut. 5:1–22
2 Cor. 4:1–12
Luke 16:10–17 (18)

Saturday, June 3

Morning: Pss. 56; 149
Evening: Pss. 125; 90
Deut. 5:22–33
2 Cor. 4:13–5:10
Luke 16:19–31

Sunday, June 4

Trinity Sunday
Morning: Pss. 103; 150
Evening: Pss. 117; 139
Deut. 6:1–9 (10–15)
Eph. 4:1–16
John 1:1–18

Monday, June 5

Morning: Pss. 57; 145
Evening: Pss. 85; 47
Deut. 11:13–19
2 Cor. 5:11–6:2
Luke 17:1–10

Tuesday, June 6

Morning: Pss. 54; 146
Evening: Pss. 28; 99
Deut. 12:1–12
2 Cor. 6:3–13 (14–7:1)
Luke 17:11–19

Wednesday, June 7

Morning: Pss. 65;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 125; 91
Deut. 13:1–11
2 Cor. 7:2–16
Luke 17:20–37

Thursday, June 8

Morning: Pss. 143;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 81; 116
Deut. 16:18–20; 17:14–20
2 Cor. 8:1–16
Luke 18:1–8

Friday, June 9

Morning: Pss. 88; 148
Evening: Pss. 6; 20
Deut. 26:1–11
2 Cor. 8:16–24
Luke 18:9–14

Saturday, June 10

Morning: Pss. 122; 149
Evening: Pss. 100; 63
Deut. 29:2–15
2 Cor. 9:1–15
Luke 18:15–30

Sunday, June 11

Morning: Pss. 108; 150
Evening: Pss. 66; 23
Deut. 29:16–29
Rev. 12:1–12
Matt. 15:29–39

Monday, June 12

Morning: Pss. 62; 145
Evening: Pss. 73; 9
Deut. 30:1–10
2 Cor. 10:1–18
Luke 18:31–43

Tuesday, June 13

Morning: Pss. 12; 146
Evening: Pss. 36; 7
Deut. 30:11–20
2 Cor. 11:1–21a
Luke 19:1–10

Wednesday, June 14

Morning: Pss. 96;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 132; 134
Deut. 31:30–32:14
2 Cor. 11:21b–33
Luke 19:11–27

Thursday, June 15

Morning: Pss. 116;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 26; 130
Song of Sol. 1:1–3, 9–11,
15–16a; 2:1–3a
2 Cor. 12:1–10
Luke 19:28–40

Friday, June 16

Morning: Pss. 84; 148
Evening: Pss. 25; 40
Song of Sol. 2:8–13;
4:1–4a, 5–7, 9–11
2 Cor. 12:11–21
Luke 19:41–48

Saturday, June 17

Morning: Pss. 63; 149
 Evening: Pss. 125; 90
 Song of Sol. 5:10–16; 7:1–2 (3–5) 6–7a (9); 8:6–7
 2 Cor. 13:1–13
 Luke 20:1–8

Sunday, June 18

Morning: Pss. 103; 150
 Evening: Pss. 117; 139
 Exod. 6:2–13; 7:1–6
 Rev. 15:1–8
 Matt. 18:1–14

Monday, June 19

Morning: Pss. 5; 145
 Evening: Pss. 82; 29
 1 Sam. 1:1–20
 Acts 1:1–14
 Luke 20:9–19

Tuesday, June 20

Morning: Pss. 42; 146
 Evening: Pss. 102; 133
 1 Sam. 1:21–2:11
 Acts 1:15–26
 Luke 20:19–26

Wednesday, June 21

Morning: Pss. 89:1–18;
 147:1–11
 Evening: Pss. 1; 33
 1 Sam. 2:12–26
 Acts 2:1–21
 Luke 20:27–40

Thursday, June 22

Morning: Pss. 97;
 147:12–20
 Evening: Pss. 16; 62
 1 Sam. 2:27–36
 Acts 2:22–36
 Luke 20:41–21:4

Friday, June 23

Morning: Pss. 51; 148
 Evening: Pss. 142; 65
 1 Sam. 3:1–21
 Acts 2:37–47
 Luke 21:5–19

Saturday, June 24

Morning: Pss. 104; 149
 Evening: Pss. 138; 98
 1 Sam. 4:1b–11
 Acts 4:32–5:11
 Luke 21:20–28

Sunday, June 25

Morning: Pss. 19; 150
 Evening: Pss. 81; 113
 1 Sam. 4:12–22
 James 1:1–18
 Matt. 19:23–30

Monday, June 26

Morning: Pss. 135; 145
 Evening: Pss. 97; 112
 1 Sam. 5:1–12
 Acts 5:12–26
 Luke 21:29–36

Tuesday, June 27

Morning: Pss. 123; 146
 Evening: Pss. 30; 86
 1 Sam. 6:1–16
 Acts 5:27–42
 Luke 21:37–22:13

Wednesday, June 28

Morning: Pss. 15;
 147:1–11
 Evening: Pss. 48; 4
 1 Sam. 7:2–17
 Acts 6:1–15
 Luke 22:14–23

Thursday, June 29

Morning: Pss. 36;
 147:12–20
 Evening: Pss. 80; 27
 1 Sam. 8:1–22
 Acts 6:15–7:16
 Luke 22:24–30

Friday, June 30

Morning: Pss. 130; 148
 Evening: Pss. 32; 139
 1 Sam. 9:1–14
 Acts 7:17–29
 Luke 22:31–38