

THE KIRK KONNECTION

Editor: Carolyn Marnon

January 2018

When I arrive at my office during the winter months, it's often still dark. Time passes, though, and as morning progresses it gets.....slightly less dark.



Because of this darkness, many folks in Michigan are affected by seasonal depression. Several years ago, while a resident of MI, a doctor asked me if I “felt depressed.” Taken aback, I said, “Um, no, not that I know of. Why?” And then he told me that my vitamin D level was low and recommended taking a daily pill for that. I’ve done so for years, and I think it’s helpful. Despite the benefit of the vitamin D supplement, however, I still found myself slogging through some days in the winter months. The darkness was holding me back; it was making it hard to be productive.

I mentioned all of this to my wife, who suggested we get a full-spectrum light for my office (often referred to colloquially as a “happy lamp”). There are plenty of opinions out there arguing the benefits of these lamps; some say they’re helpful and others say they’re not. I personally noticed a spring in my step when I began using one. The light that came from this lamp seemed to chase away every shred of dark and made me feel as though I was basking in sunshine.

Just as the literal darkness of this world can hamper our best efforts to maintain proper health and productivity, so can the very real darkness of evil tear us down spiritually. Sin is constantly beckoning; Satan will always find a way to tempt even the most devoted Christians in this world. He knows where we’re most vulnerable and that’s always where he’ll strike. The sin that is lurking in the shadows relentlessly threatens our balance as we strive to remain upright on our Christian walks. And when the path is unlit, we will undoubtedly stumble.

So what are we to do?

Turn to Jesus, of course! Jesus is the spiritual “happy lamp” that will light the path of every Christian. Just as the lamp in my office does me no good if I neglect to turn it on, though, Jesus will similarly not be as helpful in lighting our spiritual darkness if we don’t flip the “on” switch: if we don’t seek Him out in prayer and go to Him when darkness is closing in, we are not making use of that most powerful weapon in history which conquered sin and death. Truth be told, the switch should never really need to be “flipped.” We are at our best when we are seeking Jesus in ALL times: our greatest joys, our deepest sorrows and everywhere in between. The switch should *always* be “on.”

We celebrated the arrival of Jesus – the Light of the World – in candlelight just a few nights ago during our Christmas Eve service. The candles on the Advent wreath were lit: hope, peace, joy and love, and then the Christ candle. From the Christ candle another single candle was lit and then this flame was distributed to every individual sitting in the sanctuary.

The Savior has come into the world, and our dark has turned to light.

The Christian celebration of Epiphany – the revelation of God to the world through Jesus – is nearly upon us. And in the midst of this celebration we Christians are called to continue to distribute the light of Christ to the rest of the world, just as it was first distributed to us at Christmas. It is our responsibility to shine the light of Jesus on all of our sisters and brothers in this world, that their spiritual paths may be illuminated just as ours are.

May we continue to take our lighted candles and share this flame with our neighbors. The Light of the World is not meant to be hid under a bushel; no! Let us do our utmost to share the light of Jesus Christ with a world that has been crying out in the darkness for far too long.

Pastor Mike



**Don't
Forget
Your
Per Capita**

2018 Per Capita

The Presbytery has increased the amount of Per Capita that is due from each member in 2018. Per Capita provides administrative support to the mission of the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. Among other things Per Capita provides office and clerical needs, accounting services for mission, and support to helping congregations find new pastors as well as assist candidates to prepare for the ministry. The Per Capita charge that the Kirk recommends is based on that assessed by the Presbytery. *For 2018 the amount will increase to \$27 a member*, a one dollar increase over the past three years. Please pay this amount at your convenience during the early part of 2018 using the envelope provided in your pledge envelope box or any other envelope that you mark as Per Capita.

Thank you.



JANUARY 28
**Annual Meeting and
Potluck**

The congregation's annual meeting and potluck will be after worship on Sunday, January 28.

Annual reports are due to the office via email no later than January 21.

If your last name begins with/bring:

A-I: dessert

J-R: main dish

S-Z: side dish

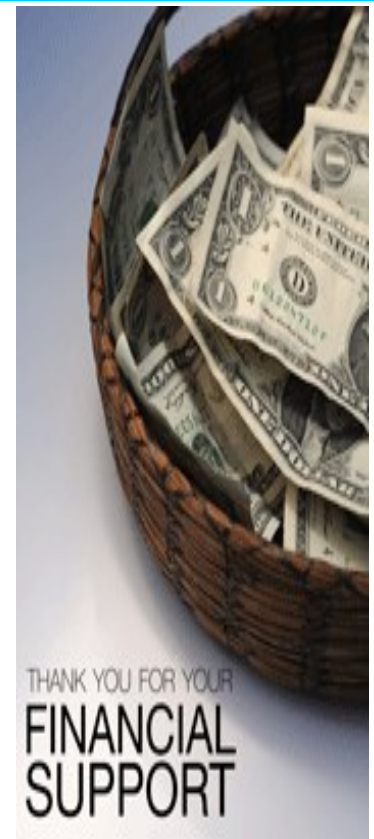
You will need to bring your own tableware and drinks. The pop machine in the fellowship hall is no longer available.

Financial Report as of 11/30/2017

	November	Year to Date	Budget
Income	10,903	112,585	106,050
Expenses	10,569	98,581	103,514
Net Income or Loss	334	14,004	2,536
Liquid Assets*	105,171	105,171	

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

November had a small gain that was very good historically for a month with 3 pay periods. We also paid the last two monthly bills with our cleaning service before switching to an individual housekeeper. We benefited from gains on mutual funds as well as a credit for our gas bills.



January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office Closed 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group	2 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus	3	4	5 7:45-9:30pm Alanon	6
7 Baptism of the Lord Communion	8 6:30-8:30pm Hope for Healing Hearts 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group	9 6:30-8pm Girl Scouts 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus	10	11	12 7:45-9:30pm Alanon	13
14 Session	15 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group	16 7-9pm WCCP Maintenance – Fellowship Hall 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus	17	18 9am-Noon WCCP 3 Year Auto Show -Fellowship Hall	19 9am-Noon WCCP 4 Year Auto Show -Fellowship Hall 7:45-9:30pm Alanon	20
21	22 6:30-8:30pm Hope for Healing Hearts 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group	23 6:30-8pm Girl Scouts 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus	24	25	26 7:45-9:30pm Alanon	27
28 Annual Meeting and Potluck Deacons	29 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group	30 7-9pm WCCP Maintenance – Fellowship Hall 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus	31 11:30 am Classy Lassies and Grazers Lunch			



January 31

Join Classy Lassies and Grazers as they meet at 11:30am in the church lobby before going out to lunch.

All are invited! This means you! The men and women of the church meet on the last Wednesday of every month for fun and fellowship. You are invited to come too! After meeting in the lounge, the groups each decide where they will go locally for lunch.



Kirk of Our Savior Making a Difference!

Recently, from Susan Smith and Jody White:

"Dear Judy (Curtis) and the Members of Kirk of our Savior,

We want to thank you for your very generous donation of Joann's gift card! They will be spent next week during the Black Friday sale. So your timing was perfect!

It will be spent mostly on flannel, PUL and new cutting mats (the old ones are wearing out.)

We are working very hard to get a very large (1000 kits!) order out to Kenya. Some nursing students from Wayne State will be taking it. They will go to 8 different schools and talk to the young girls in 8th grade.

Thank you again, we are very grateful!"

WARM THE CHILDREN

8 coats and 2 pairs of boots were distributed in December. Judy Curtis will still take any donations of gently used coats and boots. Depending on what sizes are requested, Judy tries to first fulfill the request with the coats that were purchased when Kmart closed.

The Mitten Tree

Thank you to the wonderful woman from the Kirk who made lovely hats and scarves for The Mitten Tree. Thank you to the congregation for all their donations also. Judy Curtis took them all to the Salvation Army before Christmas.

CONDOLENCES

Jan Wharrie, longtime member at the Kirk who had been a resident at Presbyterian Village for years, died at the end of December. Please keep the family in your prayers in the wake of Jan's death.

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.

January 2018 Daily Lectionary

These Scripture readings are from the two-year daily lectionary of the Presbyterian Book of Common Worship (Westminster John Knox Press, 1993). The readings from the three-year Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals are not included in this document.

January

Monday, January 1

Morning: Pss. 98; 145

Evening: Pss. 99; 8

Isa. 62:1–5, 10–12

Rev. 19:11–16

Matt. 1:18–25

Tuesday, January 2

Morning: Pss. 48; 146

Evening: Pss. 9; 29

1 Kings 19:1–8

Eph. 4:1–16

John 6:1–14

Wednesday, January 3

Morning: Pss. 111; 147:1–11

Evening: Pss. 107; 15

1 Kgs. 19:9–18

Eph. 4:17–32

John 6:15–27

Thursday, January 4

Morning: Pss. 20; 147:12–20

Evening: Pss. 93; 97

Josh. 3:14–4:7

Eph. 5:1–20

John 9:1–12, 35–38

Friday, January 5

Morning: Pss. 99; 148

Evening: Pss. 96; 110

Jonah 2:2–9

Eph. 6:10–20

John 11:17–27, 38–44

Saturday, January 6

Epiphany of the Lord

Morning: Pss. 72; 149

Evening: Pss. 100; 67

Isa. 49:1–7

Rev. 21:22–27

Matt. 12:14–21

Sunday, January 7

Baptism of the Lord

Morning: Pss. 104; 150

Evening: Ps. 29

Gen. 1:1–2:3

Eph. 1:3–14

John 1:29–34

Monday, January 8

Morning: Pss. 5; 145

Evening: Pss. 82; 29

Gen. 2:4–9 (10–15) 16–25

Heb. 1:1–14

John 1:1–18

Tuesday, January 9

Morning: Pss. 42; 146

Evening: Pss. 102; 133

Gen. 3:1–24

Heb. 2:1–10

John 1:19–28

Wednesday, January 10

Morning: Pss. 89:1–18;

147:1–11

Evening: Pss. 1; 33

Gen. 4:1–16

Heb. 2:11–18

John 1:(29–34) 35–42

Thursday, January 11

Morning: Pss. 97; 147:12–20

Evening: Pss. 16; 62

Gen. 4:17–26

Heb. 3:1–11

John 1:43–51

Friday, January 12

Morning: Pss. 51; 148

Evening: Pss. 142; 65

Gen. 6:1–8

Heb. 3:12–19

John 2:1–12

Saturday, January 13

Morning: Pss. 104; 149

Evening: Pss. 138; 98

Gen. 6:9–22

Heb. 4:1–13

John 2:13–22

Sunday, January 14

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Morning: Pss. 19; 150

Evening: Pss. 81; 113

Gen. 7:1–10, 17–23

Eph. 4:1–16

Mark 3:7–19

Monday, January 15

Morning: Pss. 135; 145

Evening: Pss. 97; 112

Gen. 8:6–22

Heb. 4:14–5:6

John 2:23–3:15

Tuesday, January 16

Morning: Pss. 123; 146

Evening: Pss. 30; 86

Gen. 9:1–17

Heb. 5:7–14

John 3:16–21

Wednesday, January 17
Morning: Pss. 15; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 48; 4
Gen. 9:18–29
Heb. 6:1–12
John 3:22–36

Thursday, January 18
Morning: Pss. 36; 147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 80; 27
Gen. 11:1–9
Heb. 6:13–20
John 4:1–15

Friday, January 19
Morning: Pss. 130; 148
Evening: Pss. 32; 139
Gen. 11:27—12:8
Heb. 7:1–17
John 4:16–26

Saturday, January 20
Morning: Pss. 56; 149
Evening: Pss. 118; 111
Gen. 12:9—13:1
Heb. 7:18–28
John 4:27–42

Sunday, January 21
3rd Sunday after Epiphany
Morning: Pss. 67; 150
Evening: Pss. 46; 93
Gen. 13:2–18
Gal. 2:1–10
Mark 7:31–37

Monday, January 22
Morning: Pss. 57; 145
Evening: Pss. 85; 47
Gen. 14:(1–7) 8–24
Heb. 8:1–13
John 4:43–54

Tuesday, January 23
Morning: Pss. 54; 146
Evening: Pss. 28; 99
Gen. 15:1–11, 17–21
Heb. 9:1–14
John 5:1–18

Wednesday, January 24
Morning: Pss. 65; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 125; 91
Gen. 16:1–14
Heb. 9:15–28
John 5:19–29

Thursday, January 25
Morning: Pss. 143;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 81; 116
Gen. 16:15—17:14
Heb. 10:1–10
John 5:30–47

Friday, January 26
Morning: Pss. 88; 148
Evening: Pss. 6; 20
Gen. 17:15–27
Heb. 10:11–25
John 6:1–15

Saturday, January 27
Morning: Pss. 122; 149
Evening: Pss. 100; 63
Gen. 18:1–16
Heb. 10:26–39
John 6:16–27

Sunday, January 28
4th Sunday after Epiphany
Morning: Pss. 108; 150
Evening: Pss. 66; 23
Gen. 18:16–33
Gal. 5:13–25
Mark 8:22–30

Monday, January 29
Morning: Pss. 62, 145
Evening: Pss. 73, 9
Gen. 19:1–17 (18–23)
24–29
Heb. 11:1–12
John 6:27–40

Tuesday, January 30
Morning: Pss. 12, 146
Evening: Pss. 36, 7
Gen. 21:1–21
Heb. 11:13–22
John 6:41–51

Wednesday, January 31
Morning: Pss. 96;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 132; 134
Gen. 22:1–18
Heb. 11:23–31
John 6:52–59



SUNDAY SCHOOL

What's missing? 'U'! We need children to help us build a bulletin board display, play games, and paint while we learn about God's Law and what it means for us. Won't you join us on Sunday mornings at 10:30 - it isn't the same without 'you'.

In January, we will learn about being right with God by playing games, doing crafts and building a bulletin board display.



Please welcome our new members that joined the Kirk in 2017:

Andrea Alicea
William Partaka
Chad Childers



3 Joan Nystrom
3 Tom Roe
16 Pat Ross
26 Walter Jennings
27 Jim Troutman
28 Lorraine Scott

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Madeline Carpenter (2018), Chairman and Elder
Bonnie Hilberer (2019) Elder
Irene Gaylord (2020) Deacon

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Mark Gallaher, Chairman and Elder
Cindy Handford (2019) Deacon
Lynn King (2020) Deacon

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Dorothy Albright, (2020) Chairman and Elder
June Jennings (2018) Deacon

MISSION/OUTREACH

Judy Curtis (2018) Chairman and Elder
Nancy Pride (2020), Elder
Lorraine Scott (2019) Deacon
Audrey Conner (2019) Deacon

FOUNDATION

Leslie Holland (2019) Chairman and Elder
Patrick Frobe (2020) Elder
John Jennings (2018) Deacon
Rob Otte (2020) Deacon
TREASURER: Fred Kirk

CLERK: Jenny Root

A publication for the family and friends of
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