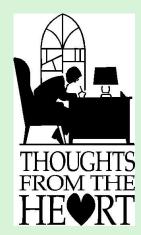
THE KIRK KONNECTION

Editor: Carolyn Marnon

March 2023



Near the conclusion of this past Sunday's sermon, I said, "During this season of Lent, I invite us all to listen......to *God*. Do your best to learn what God is asking of you today, and *repeat the process every day*. If you do that, you'll develop the habit of walking with God so much that there's *no way you'll ever be walking away from God*. Many of you correctly refer to this activity as '*prayer*.'"

Suggesting that we engage in the above practice is straightforward enough, but it is far less clear to many of us *how* we ought to do this.

How do we pray? Is there a right or wrong way? Is there a method that is better or more helpful than others?

The answer is yes. And also no.

Our current Bible study at church is guided by Ruth Haley Barton's book <u>Sacred Rhythms</u>, which teaches seven different spiritual disciplines that Christians – lifelong followers of Christ and those brand new to the faith – have for hundreds of years found to be beneficial on the road to a deeper relationship with God. During our introductory meeting yesterday, this question of how to pray was helpfully raised.

The truth is that there are infinite numbers for *how* to pray, because prayer is communion with God. "Communion," so defined by The Oxford English Dictionary, refers to "the sharing or exchanging of intimate thoughts and feelings, especially when the exchange is on a mental or spiritual level." This exchange doesn't have to include spoken words. In fact, it doesn't even need to be comprised of words at all, spoken or *unspoken*. However, the "best" form of communion with God for one person might be different than the most helpful form for someone else. There is probably a specific method for all of us that is more "right" – more effective at bringing us into communication with God – for each of us individually than all others. So there is no "wrong way" to pray, per se, but there is probably a vehicle of engaging in communion with God that is better for *you* than all others.



During this liturgical season of Lent, the world often engages in practices designed to, on some level, bring them into closer relationship with God. We're all familiar with the idea of giving something up or, in more recent years, taking something extra on during this season.

Continued on next page...

...Continued from previous page

While these practices have good intentions, there is an absence of God in these efforts. Does giving up fried food for 40 days really help you grow in relationship with God? Probably not. Spiritual disciplines, on the other hand, have far better potential to achieve the desired goal to achieve a deeper relationship with the Lord. *All* of this is "prayer," even though it may not resemble the conventional idea of what "prayer" is.

The goal of our study of Sacred Rhythms is to try out a variety of spiritual disciplines on an exploratory journey that leads us to a better understanding of what works best for each of us individually. While it might be true that each of us has one particular vehicle of communion with God that is ideal, it should be noted that this can change as our lives and circumstances change, perhaps even *by the day*. That is another crucial reason to explore as many different spiritual disciplines and methods of praying as possible, so that all of those practices are available to us as we seek to get nearer to God, to have access to our Lord, to engage in deep, intimate communication and relationship that we can feel deep down in our bones and in our soul. The more techniques at our disposal – the more approaches that we have to be in touch with God – the likelier it is that our relationship with the Lord will grow progressively more meaningful. In short: we get what we give. Your satisfaction with your spiritual life will probably be commensurate with the effort you put into developing it.

There should be no stress as we engage in this: there are no grades, no tests, no deadlines. If there is one "rule," however, I would return to my initial comment about "repeating the process every day," because if we never stop our communication with God we'll never be moving "away" from God. The goal is to get closer to our Creator – to our Savior – and even if our steps are sometimes small that's exactly what we'll be doing as long as we never stop seeking God. I invite all of you to begin this journey (or continue if you're already on it), relishing both the large jumps and the tiny steps as you get closer to God. (3)

Pastor Mike



Kirk of Our Savior Annual Congregational Meeting

January 22, 2023

The Clerk of Session verified that there was a quorum present (21 members), so the meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Mike at 11:45 a.m. in the sanctuary.

It was MOVED by Judy Walker, SECONDED, and CARRIED to approve the agenda as presented.

The following reports were presented for approval:

Clerk of Session Worship
Church Foundation Treasurer's:
Fellowship a) 2022 Audit
Outreach/Mission b) Balance Sheet

Pastor's c) Income Statement

After the opportunity for discussion, it was MOVED by Bob Gates, SECONDED, and CARRIED to approve the 2023 Terms of Call for Rev. Michael Beckman, which are printed in full at the end of these minutes.

The Treasurer presented, for information only, the 2023 Operating Budget.

The following elections took place:

OFFICERS

Elders, class of 2025: Mieke Beckman, Bob Cindric and June Jennings.

It was MOVED by Carolyn Gates, SECONDED, and CARRIED to close nominations and MOVED by Nancy Pride, SECONDED, and CARRIED to direct the Clerk to cast one ballot for the slate, and to elect the above-named people.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Joan Nystrom and John Rose placed themselves into nomination; it was MOVED by Bob Gates, SECONDED, and CARRIED to elect Joan and John.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Madeline Carpenter, Mark Gallaher and Jen Otte were nominated to serve; it was MOVED by Bob Gates, SE-CONDED, and CARRIED to elect them.

The Moderator temporarily recessed the meeting of the congregation at 12:10 p.m. to take care of the business of the Corporation.

Kirk of Our Savior Annual Meeting of the Corporation

January 22, 2023

The meeting was called to order by the president, Rob Otte, at 12:10 The President verified that the following officers were in attendance: Vice President Nancy Pride, Secretary June Jennings, and Treasurer Fred Kirk.

The minutes of the February 6, 2022 meeting of the trustees were presented; if was MOVED by Rob Otte, SE-CONDED, and CARRIED to approve the minutes as written.

It was MOVED by Carolyn Gates, SECONDED, and CARRIED to remove Pat Frobe from the Board of Trustees and add Bob Cindric to the Board of Trustees., It was MOVED by Bob Gate, SECONDED, and CARRIED Bob Gates, to adjourn the meeting of the Corporation at 12:12 p.m.

The meeting of the Congregation resumed at 12:12 p.m. It was MOVED by Bob Gates, SECONDED, and CARRIED to waive the reading of the minutes for both meetings and allow the Session to approve them at the regularly scheduled meeting in February. The minutes will be printed in full in the monthly newsletter.

It was MOVED by Carolyn Gates, SECONDED, and CARRIED to adjourn the meeting at 12:32 p.m. with prayer by Pastor Mike.

Continued on next page...

... Continued from previous page

TERMS OF CALL for Rev. Michael Beckman, 2023:					
EFFECTIVE SALARY	2022	2023			
Salary	\$28,178	\$28,578			
Housing Allowance	19 <u>,</u> 976	19,976			
TOTAL:	48,154	49,358			
PAID BENEFITS					
Major Medical	13,001	13,001			
Pension	4, 093	4,195			
Death Benefit	477	494			
Social Security	3,684	3,776			
Temporary Disability	241	247			
REIMBURSED EXPENSES					
Study Allowance	1,000	1,050			
Professional Expenses	1,500	1,550			
TOTAL COMPENSATION	\$72,150	\$74,984			

Mike receives 6 weeks Personal Leave and 2 weeks Study Leave

June M. Jennings, Clerk of Session



Financial Report as of 1/31/2	023		
	January	Year to Date	Budget
Income	12,224	12,224	8,414
			-,
Expenses	9,709	9,709	10,005
Net Income or Loss	2,515	2,515	-1,591
Liquid Assets*	93,553	93,553	
* equals the total for Kirk check	nd mutual funds.		

Does not include Thank God 4 Christian Parents Fund.

January was beneficial for the Kirk though gains of \$4,000 impacted the bottom line. That gain offset a withdrawal that was made early in the month from Mutual Funds. Even without the gain January's bottom line would have been slightly better than budget. High winter gas bills continue and 2 copier lease payments occurred as well. Incoming cash flows were within \$100 of budgeted amounts.

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.







Members gathered together on Sunday, February 19 for a post-worship luncheon. Rob and Jen Otte oversaw what we hope

will become regular "about monthly" luncheons.

For this luncheon, Rob had planned chicken & dressing casserole and rolls.











- 6 Jerry Cobleigh
- 11 Mieke Beckman
- 17 Jen Otte
- 24 John Jennings
- 24 Mila Lewandowski

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.



Bible study is back for Lent 2023!

We're all set for Bible study! 'Sacred Rhythms,' authored by Ruth Haley Barton, is a six-week study that fo-

cuses upon spiritual practices. We began our study on Wednesday, March 1, at 1:00 PM in the lounge, and we will meet weekly until the study is concluded. Participant books are \$10 each. If you want to participate and would like a book - and have not yet informed Pastor Mike - please do so as soon as possible!

We hope you'll join us for more fun and engaging conversation and fellowship together!

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
Kirk of Our Savior
Presbyterian Church (USA)
36660 Cherry Hill Road, Westland MI 48185
Office: (734) 728-1088
churchoffice@wowway.biz
Michael Beckman, Pastor (215) 620-3259,
mikebeckman2@gmail.com
Facebook.com/kirkofoursavior
www.kirkofoursavior.org

LEARN THROUGH PLAY PRESCHOOL

"Our toddler class had a great time celebrating Valentine's Day. They had a small party and exchanged treats with each other. Our GSRP students finished up our study on clothing; they had a great time exploring the topic but also learning about different styles of dress and methods of making clothes. They finished the unit by giving a fashion show where they displayed vests that they created and designed. We are getting stir crazy, though, from the changing temperatures and we long for warmer weather!



Updates on the Donations from Kirk of our Savior

Stevenson Middle School 2022-23

Kirk of Our Savior has partnered with Wayne Westland's Stevenson Middle School to help bring additional programs to the students. The staff at Stevenson have provided the Kirk with details of how the donation was utilized. Items bold and italicized come from the proposal Principal Kimberly Doman provided to the Kirk Session last fall.

"We have a PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention System) framework that we utilize in our building to help students make positive choices. We utilize a PBIS rewards app so students can cash in the points that they earn for good choices made during the day for amazing prizes."

Stevenson reported recently that the store selections include items available for 10 PBIS points (blow pops, sour punch twists, lanyards, stickers, and jolly ranchers) up to 100 PBIS points for a "lazy lounger," a bendable clip that allows one to attach a phone for hands-free viewing.) Other items include face masks, pencils, highlighters, gel pens, t-shirts, mini posters, colored pencils, markers, motivational bracelets and gift cards.

"Each month we have a reward party for students that have met that month's criteria, which covers our pillars for Stevenson Middle School citizenship: Respect, Accountability, Pride, and Safety."









"Stevenson Middle School was selected as one of 13 middle schools in the entire state of Michigan that is piloting the new e-sports program. E-sports is now recognized at the high school level as a sport and they are working to expand and bring this down to middle schools as well. Since this is new to us this year, we do not have any equipment other than the chromebooks for the students to play on."

E-SPORTS

In 2022-2023, Stevenson Middle School Esports Club has fulfilled the competitive gaming dreams of more than 40 Middle School students.

Your support granted us:

- 6 low latency HDTVS10 ultra-low latency
- monitors
- 8 Nintendo Switch OLEDs
- 8 Xbox Series S's
- 16 additional controllers
- Lighting design for the esports lab
- Funds for games and downloadable content



Esports Accomplishments

3rd Place in Rocket League Tournament Won our first scrimmage in Super Smash Brothers Ultimate 8th grade students participated in national Middle School Esports League





"One of our School Improvement Goals is to improve student literacy by having students reading more often. We would like to have rewards for students who are reading on their own. Any student that is found reading on their own will get a raffle ticket to enter a drawing for a prize."





Hailey Ditto (December) and Alan Lemus (January) recently won Amazon gift cards in the Student Literacy Initiative raffle for students who have chosen to read during recess.

"After school tutoring that is run by our NJHS kids and teacher supervisors. It would be helpful for us to be able to provide healthy snacks for our students that are staying after school."

We offer tutoring twice a week after school for an hour

Thanks to your donation, we have been able to provide snacks to all of our students every time they work towards improving their scores.

"The 8th graders are offered a trip out of state each year. It is \$769 for each student to attend the trip to Gettysburg and Washington DC. The trip is pricey for our families and we are requesting that we get sponsorship to pay for 5 students. We will request that each family submit an application to our department heads for approval (we would welcome board membership to be a part of the selection committee). "

8th Grade Trip to WASHINGTON DC

We were able to offer a scholarship to 5 deserving students for their school trip to Washington DC in June! The scholarship applications that were submitted can be found by clicking <u>HERE.</u>

THANK YOU!

"Each Friday the administrators meet with a different group of students to get to know each other better and discuss how school is going for them. At the end of each meeting, we ask the students to complete a "Favorite Teacher Award". We would love to attach gift cards to each for the staff that are the students' favorite teachers each week.

"Once a month we like to celebrate our staff and have unstructured time to engage in conversation and de-stress. I would like to request a catered meal for the staff once a month to allow that time for them to fellowship with each other and provide support to each other. "Each month we would like to encourage teachers to meet with students outside of their contractual time for tutoring support, sharing their interests, running clubs, or showing their support for the kids by attending a school sponsored event. I'd like to have a raffle system each month where teachers would be able to put a raffle ticket for each day that they did something for the kids outside of their contractual hours and I'd pick one winner per month to win a VISA gift card.

"Each March we have a staff competition called March Madness where teachers compete on a team with certain tasks that earn them points for their team. Each week teams are matched in brackets and knock out a losing team until we have one winner. We have a trophy that we have engraved with the winners and have done this for the past 3 years. I would like to offer more prizes for the winning team and also the teams that are participating.

"I would like to purchase my full staff a new retail option that has a \$50 limit. This is to ensure that all of our staff members, new and returning, have something that they can wear at school during our spirit days (weekly on Fridays).

"I would like to give all volunteers or substitutes that come to our building a thank you gift bag with goodies inside that include candy, a beverage, a thank you card, and a \$10 starbucks gift card."



Line Items for STAFF MORALE



Favorite Teacher Awards	We award our students weekly for students naming them as their Fave Teacher		
Catered Meals	We have been able to put on a staff catered meal from Texas Roadhouse and upcoming plans for another from TR as well as a gelato food truck in May		
Monthly Drawing for \$500!	For the past three months, we have been able to reward staff for meeting with students outside of their contractual time. They are so grateful for this!		
March Madness	We are gearing up to kick off this year's March Madness competition. The planning document can be found <u>HERE.</u> The points breakdown can be found <u>HERE.</u>		
Retail	The entire staff was gifted an Adidas quarter zip jacket with our Stevenson MS logo as well as "STAFF" on it. The staff were given this as their Christmas holiday gift. They were so grateful and excited!		
Volunteers!	We have been able to provide thank you cards and \$10 gift cards to our amazing parent volunteers that have been assisting us with our student award events each time.		

WELCOME TO

Stevenson Middle School

Mission Statement



Stevenson Middle School is a place of meaningful relationships and mutual respect where every student experiences growth and takes responsibility for their learning, while growing one leader at a time.

March 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]

Wednesday, March 1

Morning: Pss. 5; 147:1–11 Evening: Pss. 27; 51 Deut. 9:13–21 Heb. 3:12–19 John 2:23–3:15

Thursday, March 2

Morning: Pss. 27; 147:12–20 Evening: Pss. 126; 102 Deut. 9:23–10:5 Heb. 4:1–10 John 3:16–21

Friday, March 3

Morning: Pss. 22; 148 Evening: Pss. 105; 130 Deut. 10:12–22 Heb. 4:11–16 John 3:22–36

Saturday, March 4

Morning: Pss. 43; 149 Evening: Pss. 31; 143 Deut. 11:18–28 Heb. 5:1–10 John 4:1–26

Sunday, March 5 Second Sunday in Lent

Morning: Pss. 84; 150 Evening: Pss. 42; 32 Jer. 1:1–10 1 Cor. 3:11–23 Mark 3:31–4:9

Monday, March 6

145 Evening: Pss. 121; 6 Jer. 1:11–19 Rom. 1:1–15 John 4:27–42

Morning: Pss. 119:73-80;

Tuesday, March 7

Morning: Pss. 34; 146 Evening: Pss. 25; 91 Jer. 2:1–13, 29–32 Rom. 1:16–25 John 4:43–54

Wednesday, March 8

Morning: Pss. 5; 147:1–11 Evening: Pss. 27; 51 Jer. 3:6–18 Rom. 1:(26–27) 28–2:11 John 5:1–18

Thursday, March 9

Morning: Pss. 27; 147:12–20 Evening: Pss. 126; 102 Jer. 4:9–10, 19–28 Rom. 2:12–24 John 5:19–29

Friday, March 10

Morning: Pss. 22; 148 Evening: Pss. 105; 130 Jer. 5:1–9 Rom. 2:25–3:18 John 5:30–47

Saturday, March 11

Morning: Pss. 43; 149 Evening: Pss. 31; 143 Jer. 5:20–31 Rom. 3:19–31 John 7:1–13

Sunday, March 12 Third Sunday in Lent

Morning: Pss. 84; 150 Evening: Pss. 42; 32 Jer. 6:9–15 1 Cor. 6:12–20 Mark 5:1–20

Monday, March 13

Morning: Pss. 119:73–80; 145 Evening: Pss. 121; 6 Jer. 7:1–15 Rom. 4:1–12 John 7:14–36

Tuesday, March 14

Morning: Pss. 34; 146 Evening: Pss. 25; 91 Jer. 7:21–34 Rom. 4:13–25 John 7:37–52

Wednesday, March 15

Morning: Pss. 5; 147:1–11 Evening: Pss. 27; 51 Jer. 8:4–7, 18–9:6 Rom. 5:1–11 John 8:12–20

Thursday, March 16

Morning: Pss. 27; 147:12–20 Evening: Pss. 126; 102 Jer. 10:11–24 Rom. 5:12–21 John 8:21–32

Friday, March 17

Morning: Pss. 22; 148 Evening: Pss. 105; 130 Jer. 11:1–8, 14–17 Rom. 6:1–11 John 8:33–47

Saturday, March 18

Morning: Pss. 43; 149 Evening: Pss. 31; 143 Jer. 13:1–11 Rom. 6:12–23 John 8:47–59

Sunday, March 19 Fourth Sunday in Lent

Morning: Pss. 84; 150 Evening: Pss. 42; 32 Jer. 14:1–9 (10–16) 17–22 Gal. 4:21–5:1 Mark 8:11–21

Monday, March 20

Morning: Pss. 119:73–80; 145 Evening: Pss. 121; 6 Jer. 16:(1–9) 10–21 Rom. 7:1–12 John 6:1–15

Tuesday, March 21

Morning: Pss. 34; 146 Evening: Pss. 25; 91 Jer. 17:19–27 Rom. 7:13–25 John 6:16–27

Wednesday, March 22

Morning: Pss. 5; 147:1–11 Evening: Pss. 27; 51 Jer. 18:1–11 Rom. 8:1–11 John 6:27–40

Thursday, March 23

Morning: Pss. 27; 147:12–20 Evening: Pss. 126; 102 Jer. 22:13–23 Rom. 8:12–27 John 6:41–51

Friday, March 24

Morning: Pss. 22; 148 Evening: Pss. 105; 130 Jer. 23:1–8 Rom. 8:28–39 John 6:52–59

Saturday, March 25

Morning: Pss. 43; 149 Evening: Pss. 31; 143 Jer. 23:9–15 Rom. 9:1–18 John 6:60–71

Sunday, March 26 Fifth Sunday in Lent

Morning: Pss. 84; 150 Evening: Pss. 42; 32 Jer. 23:16–32 1 Cor. 9:19–27 Mark 8:31–9:1

Monday, March 27

Morning: Pss. 119:73–80; 145 Evening: Pss. 121; 6 Jer. 24:1–10 Rom. 9:19–33 John 9:1–17

Tuesday, March 28

Morning: Pss. 34; 146 Evening: Pss. 25; 91 Jer. 25:8–17 Rom. 10:1–13 John 9:18–41

Wednesday, March 29

Morning: Pss. 5; 147:1–11 Evening: Pss. 27; 51 Jer. 25:30–38 Rom. 10:14–21 John 10:1–18

Thursday, March 30

Morning: Pss. 27; 147:12–20 Evening: Pss. 126; 102 Jer. 26:1–16 (17–24) Rom. 11:1–12 John 10:19–42

Friday, March 31

Morning: Pss. 22; 148 Evening: Pss. 105; 130 Jer. 29:1 (2–3) 4–14 Rom. 11:13–24 John 11:1–27 or John 12:1–10

March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			l 1pm-Bible Study	2	3 7:30-9pm Alanon- Lounge	4
5 10:30am Worship	6 7:30-9pm BiPolar Depression Support Group Meeting-Lounge	7	8 1pm-Bible Study	9	10 7:30-9pm Alanon- Lounge	11
12 10:30am Worship	13 7:30-9pm BiPolar Depression Support Group Meeting-Lounge	14	15 1pm-Bible Study	16	17 7:30-9pm Alanon- Lounge	18
19 10:30am Worship	20 7:30-9pm BiPolar Depression Support Group Meeting-Lounge	21	22 1pm-Bible Study	23	24 7:30-9pm Alanon- Lounge	25
26 10:30am Worship	27 7:30-9pm BiPolar Depression Support Group Meeting-Lounge	28	29 1pm-Bible Study	30	31 7:30-9pm Alanon- Lounge	