

THE KIRK KONNECTION

Editor: Carolyn Marnon

July 2018



THOUGHTS
FROM THE
HEART

Several weeks ago, on the Facebook page of a friend of mine, I noticed an article regarding expropriation of land without compensation in South Africa from white owners to black owners. It was a racially charged piece that highlighted the potential struggle of whites in the region who would lose their land and their homes.

The link that he posted elicited this comment from a black friend of his: “Well, I don’t want to sound heartless, but.....” I then jumped into the conversation, asking if we should be out for revenge instead of seeking equality. I was then met with this reply: “So I should feel bad when karma comes back on people who stole, beat, raped and oppressed people? I’m not getting revenge because I’m not doing anything but watching from the other side of the world. You cannot get away with treating people like less than human. What you do will come back to you.”

So I reached out to my friend, who is black, about the treatment of the black population nationwide and worldwide. I acknowledged that the black community is quite obviously treated worse on the whole than the white; in a vacuum I, as a white man, do not have the same worries/concerns/struggles that he as a black man endures. I told him that I am happy to see him posting links that are designed to educate the masses regarding racial relations and tensions in this world. I applauded his efforts but asked him if he thought it was constructive to post pieces that come with a connotation of anger, violence, hate or retribution. Would this bring about awareness, or would it just perpetuate a battle that we say we want to see end? Finally, I asked him if he shared the sentiment of his friend who made the comments above.

He responded: “Black people are in a very tough place. Unfortunately equality has gotten us nowhere. We are always forgiving and that has gotten us nowhere. This is a horribly unfortunate fact. How long should we beg for equality and awareness? Are we all meant to live and die this way? Apartheid ended 24 years ago, and South Africa tried to be civil in its reparations but that did not work. Black people have tried and are still trying to peacefully gain equality but how long will this last? It’s heartbreakingly exhausting.”

In regard to his friend’s comments: “I don’t think she is taking delight in seeing people suffer. But, perverse as it may sound, yes: there is some satisfaction in watching land that was forcefully taken away now being taken back. That said, seeing a mother fear for her children (as the link depicted) is an absolute nightmare, and I am hoping South Africa finds a more humane way of moving forward in this endeavor. Please understand that black people are running out of hope, options, and sanity.”

His comments reminded me that, no matter how hard I try, I will never totally understand his world because, quite simply, I am not black. No amount of reading or watching the news can replicate the experience of walking the streets of Detroit in skin that looks nothing like my own. All I can do is keep asking questions, and continue requesting clarity from those who, as black individuals, live a life that I do not.

So, a couple weeks later, that’s what I did: I asked him if he would be willing to sit down with me and talk a little bit more about this struggle and what he would like others to understand regarding his own experience and his own understanding of the racial landscape. He generously agreed.

He said, “It may sound crazy, but the first thing I would like people to know is that racism exists. I still regularly encounter contentious situations in which the element of racism is explained away; racist actions are passed off as anything but racism. This happens frequently on social media. It’s often unnoticed, but racism is explained away or excused all the time.”

I asked him if he might be willing to speak about his own personal, everyday encounters with racism. He said,

“I work in a department that frequently reviews resumes, and this is a fact: if we receive a resume with the name ‘Lashonda Jackson’ on it and a resume with the name ‘Julie Smith’ at the top, the latter has the upper hand by a long shot before an interview even begins... *even if the former has a much more impressive resume*. Just a simple name can prevent you not just from getting a job, but also from getting an interview. All we want is fairness, but we cannot – even now – get that. And when we rage against this and use terms like “pro-black,” people should know that we are asking for equality: not favoritism. ‘pro-black’ does *not* mean ‘anti-white.’”

I inquired about his experiences with racism on a more personal level.

“I was called a nigger for this first time when I was about 9 years old. I was in Detroit, walking alone by myself, when a bus full of adult white men, all with their heads shaved, began yelling the insult at me. Years later, in Las Vegas, I sat down next to a woman at an Elvis impersonator concert. The woman next to me immediately moved one more seat further away from me, and then clutched her purse in her lap for the remainder of the concert.”

His next comment surprised me.

“This kind of racism is what people hear about and see on TV. I get so frustrated with the media because of all the animated racism that gets clicks and views; people wind up thinking that’s all that racism is. Experiences like this are painful, but racism doesn’t have to be so blatant to hurt. The systematic racism in our country is far scarier than being called a name and then being able to walk home afterward and be done with it. The subtle racism that exists in the workplace, the sort of thing to which I spoke earlier, is far more sinister and it’s ubiquitous in our country. We keep the black person in their place, and if we do it politely enough maybe no one will make a big deal about it.”

So what is the answer? What can someone such as I do?

“Awareness is the number one thing. Talk about these things that we’ve spoken about today. Make sure it’s out in the open and not pushed out of the public eye.”

What kind of positive change might this make to the current landscape?

“Every single time it’s talked about, even if only one person hears it, there is a chance that someone will hear and learn. This will lead to others hearing and learning. Maybe one day it will lead to diversity training in a random workplace. Maybe it changes how one person interacts with someone who does not look like them, and this leads hopefully to someone else doing the same. It may not seem like much, and it may seem simplistic, but I believe that a domino effect is possible that can produce a better world.”

I pray that I can be one of these dominoes.

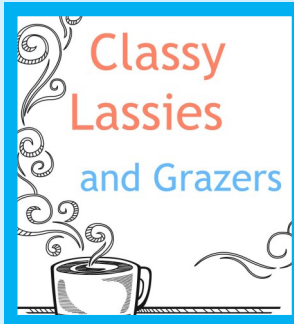
I hope you’ll join me, and may God bless us in our efforts.

Pastor Mike



Summer is here and with it come our summertime worship changes! In our effort to beat the heat, we are now downstairs in Fellowship Hall for worship. We will remain there through Labor Day.

We have also begun worship 30 minutes earlier at 10:00 a.m., so please be careful to note both the location *and* the time change. See you then and there!



July 25 Lunch-Date

July is National Blueberry, National Hot Dog, National Ice Cream and National Picnic Month. Perhaps the

Classy Lassies and Grazers will take that into account when choosing a dining location for their monthly lunch get-together on Wednesday, July 25. All are welcome to come have lunch with the group. No invitation is required. Just show up! The groups meet at the Kirk; just show up by 11:30 am. This group meets on the last Wednesday of every month for fun and fellowship, and a good lunch at a local restaurant.



Bible Study is Back!

For this session we are focusing on "Women of the Bible."

We will be meeting on Thursday nights at 6:00 PM in the lounge, starting Thursday, July 5th. Cost of the book accompanying the study is \$10; please see/call/email Pastor Mike about ordering one!

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Madeline Carpenter (2021), Chairman and Elder

Bonnie Hilberer (2019) Elder

Irene Gaylord (2020) Deacon

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Mark Gallaher (2019) Chairman and Elder

Cindy Handford (2019) Deacon

Lynn King (2020) Deacon

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Dorothy Albright, (2020) Chairman and Elder

Bill Partaka (2021) Deacon

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Judy Curtis (2021) Chairman and Elder

Nancy Pride (2020), Elder

Lorraine Scott (2019) Deacon

Audrey Conner (2019) Deacon

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Leslie Holland (2019) Chairman and Elder

Patrick Frobe (2020) Elder

Rob Otte (2020) Deacon

Judy Walker (2021) Deacon and Deacon Moderator

TREASURER: Fred Kirk

CLERK: Jenny Root

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July 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9am-Choir Practice-Fellowship Hall 10am-Worship in Fellowship Hall Communion	2 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group-Lounge	3 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus-Fellowship Hall	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5 7-9pm Harmony Town Board Meeting-Lounge 6pm-Bible Study -Lounge	6 7:45-9:30pm Alanon-Lounge	7
8 9am-Choir Practice-Fellowship Hall 10am-Worship in Fellowship Hall	9 6:30-8:30pm Hope 4 Healing Hearts-Fellowship Hall 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group-Lounge	10 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus-Fellowship Hall	11	12 6pm-Bible Study -Lounge	13 7:45-9:30pm Alanon-Lounge	14
15 9am-Choir Practice-Fellowship Hall 10am-Worship in Fellowship Hall Session-Fellowship Hall	16 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group-Lounge	17 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus-Fellowship Hall	18	19 6pm-Bible Study -Lounge	20 7:45-9:30pm Alanon-Lounge No Game Night	21
22 9am-Choir Practice-Fellowship Hall 10am-Worship in Fellowship Hall Deacons-Sanctuary	23 6:30-8:30pm Hope 4 Healing Hearts-Fellowship Hall 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group-Lounge	24 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus-Fellowship Hall	25 11:30 am Classy Lassies and Grazers Lunch	26 6pm-Bible Study -Lounge	27 7:45-9:30pm Alanon-Lounge	28
29 9am-Choir Practice-Fellowship Hall 10am-Worship in Fellowship Hall	30 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group-Lounge	31 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus-Fellowship Hall				



- 4 Rebecca Havenstein-Coughlin
- 10 Carolyn Gates
- 10 Diane Weigel
- 19 Betty Hesselgrave
- 19 Ruth Duvall
- 28 Lee Milligan-McLane
- 28 Dorothy Albright
- 29 Mark Handford
- 31 Michelle Shrewsbury



Last month, Leslie Holland took to the streets of Detroit, protesting the caging and separation of children from parents under President Trump's migrant separation policy. She even ran into the Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel of Central United Methodist!

Financial Report as of 05/31/2018



	May	Year to Date	Budget
Income	8,418	48,564	49,395
Expenses	10,926	47,198	48,214
Net Income or Loss	-2,508	1,366	1,181
Liquid Assets*	110,443	110,443	

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

May was adversely impacted because of having three pay periods. The net loss is slightly more than one pay period. Budgeted numbers are close to actual thus far but the impact of the snowplowing bill will be noted in June and that will have some additional adverse effect.

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.



Corn Roast

Let's Get Corny!



July 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.

July

Sunday, July 1
6th Sunday after
Pentecost
Morning: Pss. 67; 150
Evening: Pss. 46; 93
Num. 21:4–9, 21–35
Acts 17:(12–21) 23–24
Luke 13:10–17

Monday, July 2
Morning: Pss. 57; 145
Evening: Pss. 85; 47
Num. 22:1–21
Rom. 6:12–23
Matt. 21:12–22

Tuesday, July 3
Morning: Pss. 54; 146
Evening: Pss. 28; 99
Num. 22:21–38
Rom. 7:1–12
Matt. 21:23–32

Wednesday, July 4
Morning: Pss. 65;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 125; 91
Num. 22:41–23:12
Rom. 7:13–25
Matt. 21:33–46

Thursday, July 5
Morning: Pss. 143;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 81; 116
Num. 23:11–26
Rom. 8:1–11
Matt. 22:1–14

Friday, July 6
Morning: Pss. 88; 148
Evening: Pss. 6; 20
Num. 24:1–13
Rom. 8:12–17
Matt. 22:15–22

Saturday, July 7
Morning: Pss. 122; 149
Evening: Pss. 100; 63
Num. 24:12–25
Rom. 8:18–25
Matt. 22:23–40

Sunday, July 8
7th Sunday after
Pentecost
Morning: Pss. 108; 150
Evening: Pss. 66; 23
Num. 27:12–23
Acts 19:11–20
Mark 1:14–20

Monday, July 9
Morning: Pss. 62; 145
Evening: Pss. 73; 9
Num. 32:1–6, 16–27
Rom. 8:26–30
Matt. 23:1–12

Tuesday, July 10
Morning: Pss. 12; 146
Evening: Pss. 36; 7
Num. 35:1–3, 9–15, 30–34
Rom. 8:31–39
Matt. 23:13–26

Wednesday, July 11
Morning: Pss. 96;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 132; 134
Deut. 1:1–18
Rom. 9:1–18
Matt. 23:27–39

Thursday, July 12
Morning: Pss. 116;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 26; 130
Deut. 3:18–28
Rom. 9:19–33
Matt. 24:1–14

Friday, July 13
Morning: Pss. 84; 148
Evening: Pss. 25; 40
Deut. 31:7–13, 24–32:4
Rom. 10:1–13
Matt. 24:15–31

Saturday, July 14
Morning: Pss. 63; 149
Evening: Pss. 125; 90
Deut. 34:1–12
Rom. 10:14–21
Matt. 24:32–51

Sunday, July 15
8th Sunday after
Pentecost
Morning: Pss. 103; 150
Evening: Pss. 117; 139
Josh. 1:1–18
Acts 21:3–15
Mark 1:21–27

Monday, July 16
Morning: Pss. 5; 145
Evening: Pss. 82; 29
Josh. 2:1–14
Rom. 11:1–12
Matt. 25:1–13

Tuesday, July 17
Morning: Pss. 42; 146
Evening: Pss. 102; 133
Josh. 2:15–24
Rom. 11:13–24
Matt. 25:14–30

Wednesday, July 18
Morning: Pss. 89:1–18;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 1; 33
Josh. 3:1–13
Rom. 11:25–36
Matt. 25:31–46

Thursday, July 19
Morning: Pss. 97;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 16; 62
Josh. 3:14–4:7
Rom. 12:1–8
Matt. 26:1–16

Friday, July 20
Morning: Pss. 51; 148
Evening: Pss. 142; 65
Josh. 4:19–5:1, 10–15
Rom. 12:9–21
Matt. 26:17–25

Saturday, July 21
Morning: Pss. 104; 149
Evening: Pss. 138; 98
Josh. 6:1–14
Rom. 13:1–7
Matt. 26:26–35

Sunday, July 22
9th Sunday after
Pentecost
Morning: Pss. 19; 150
Evening: Pss. 81; 113
Josh. 6:15–27
Acts 22:30–23:11
Mark 2:1–12

Monday, July 23
Morning: Pss. 135; 145
Evening: Pss. 97; 112
Josh. 7:1–13
Rom. 13:8–14
Matt. 26:36–46

Tuesday, July 24
Morning: Pss. 123; 146
Evening: Pss. 30; 86
Josh. 8:1–22
Rom. 14:1–12
Matt. 26:47–56

Wednesday, July 25
Morning: Pss. 15;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 48; 4
Josh. 8:30–35
Rom. 14:13–23
Matt. 26:57–68

Thursday, July 26
Morning: Pss. 36;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 80; 27
Josh. 9:3–21
Rom. 15:1–13
Matt. 26:69–75

Friday, July 27
Morning: Pss. 130; 148
Evening: Pss. 32; 139
Josh. 9:22–10:15
Rom. 15:14–24
Matt. 27:1–10

Saturday, July 28
Morning: Pss. 56; 149
Evening: Pss. 118; 111
Josh. 23:1–16
Rom. 15:25–33
Matt. 27:11–23

Sunday, July 29
10th Sunday after
Pentecost
Morning: Pss. 67; 150
Evening: Pss. 46; 93
Josh. 24:1–15
Acts 28:23–31
Mark 2:23–28

Monday, July 30
Morning: Pss. 57; 145
Evening: Pss. 85; 47
Josh. 24:16–33
Rom. 16:1–16
Matt. 27:24–31

Tuesday, July 31
Morning: Pss. 54; 146
Evening: Pss. 28; 99
Judg. 2:1–5, 11–23
Rom. 16:17–27
Matt. 27:32–44