

# THE KIRK KONNECTION

Editor: Carolyn Marnon

August 2022



During the sermon this past Sunday, I cited Stephen Colbert's commentary on the effectiveness of selfless service by all members of a community. Speaking about his personal experience in improv, Colbert said:

One of the things I was taught early on is that you are not the most important person in the scene. Everybody *else* is. And if *they* are the most important people in the scene, you will naturally pay attention to them and *serve them*. But the good news is *you're* in the scene too. So hopefully to them *you're* the most important person, and they will serve *you*. No one is leading; you're all following the follower, *servicing the servant*.<sup>1</sup>

This is a wonderful way to exist harmoniously in a community. But communities such as the improv troupes at which Colbert thrived enjoyed a particular advantage that many communities do not: every individual had the ability to serve equally.

In most communities that is not the case; there are those who are capable of more and those who are capable of less. This extends beyond the physical; it's not just about lifting 50 pound loads or climbing ladders. My son, for instance, not only is not yet able to perform challenging physical tasks but as a child he is also incapable of handling by himself the emotional trials that come with being human. As such, his mom and I carry a large portion of that burden for him. We are his shield and his strength, and this balance will gradually shift more and more in his direction as he grows emotionally and physically.

This kind of situation, in which Theo cannot serve us as we serve him, puts us in the position of seeking elsewhere the "service" to which Colbert referred. And we sometime find it difficult to serve and properly care for one another given the energy we are tasked with devoting to Theo. What, then, are we to do?

There are two important things we can do, and they work hand-in-hand. The first, and most obvious, is to go beyond our household in order to secure "service" or care/assistance/help/catharsis (use whatever word works best for you when thinking about your own personal needs). Solitude and time away from all the noise of the world can be really helpful, but eventually we all need to rely upon humanity to stabilize our emotional health. *We all eventually need to talk to someone so that we can process what's happening in our lives and how we can most responsibly approach all that's going on.*

I have never seen a therapist, but that is about to change. It's not that I find any stigma in therapy; my own wife is a therapist who has helped a great many people through a variety of difficult times in their lives: people who are smart, talented and capable but simply had a lot on their plates with which they needed some assistance. I have just always been lazy about this kind of thing, even when my doctor gently suggested it for the first time a couple years ago. And now, after 42 years, I have finally acknowledged the toll that my lethargy in this area has taken and the new limits that it is placing on my mind, body and heart. I have not made the effort to receive the service I need so that I can be fully equipped to continue to serve others: my wife, my son, all of you. So that is changing, hopefully to the benefit of everyone in my life.

Continued-

<sup>1</sup>Dave Zahl, "No More Winning: Stephen Colbert on Love, Service, and Improv," Mbird blog (5-9-13)

The second thing we can do is to discern which kind of service we can provide that actually gives us joy, peace and fulfillment, effectively extending us the “service” that we need in order to sustain us. This is why I became a pastor, why I’ve coached baseball and why I became a father: these tasks during which I’m helping people bring me fulfillment because I believe that I am using the best of who and what I am and as God intended.

...and that is why I’ve been able to hold out for 42 years, managing as well as I have. But, as stated, this is a two-part solution: I did a good job of the second part for a really long time, but unfortunately ignored the first element for far too long and now my proverbial chickens are coming home to roost. *We must find what gives us the most peace and joy, and incorporate that into our service so that the service does not become joyless, mundane and exhausting work. And, at the same time, we must faithfully respond to our human need to rely upon others for emotional support. We can’t go it alone, and that’s not what God intended anyway.*

Better late than never though, right? How blessed I am to be part of a Christian community: one that lives to serve and to be served and that strives to observe daily the example of Jesus Christ. It is only in my serving and being served that I will encounter the healing I and we all need; it is a family effort that we make together.

While I have always as a pastor tried to embody the seemingly tireless shepherd aspect of Jesus, I have – to my own detriment – ignored the lesson that Jesus practiced and taught the disciples about also resting, recharging and restoring.

I’ll not ignore it again. I am so grateful that God is still teaching me so much, and I am eager and excited for what today and tomorrow bring as I endeavor to stretch myself beyond who and what I was yesterday not just for myself.....but also for everyone else.

*Pastor Mike*

## MISSION News

Session recently voted to contribute funds to both local and national groups.

A contribution from the Thank God for Christian Parents fund was made toward the Wayne-Westland Community Schools effort to provide 2,500 backpacks (filled with school supplies) to underserved students.

And in light of recent events in Uvalde, TX, an additional donation from the TG4CP fund was made to Everytown for Gun Safety.

Finally, Session voted to make a contribution to the anti-bullying organization, The Trevor Project.



## 2022 PER CAPITA

The 2022 Per Capita charge per Kirk member is \$34. 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.



- 2 June Jennings
- 12 Gale Shrewsbury
- 22 Robin Roe
- 23 Peggy Flacks



Worship  
Schedule  
for the  
Summer

**Sunday Worship is  
at 10:00 a.m.  
This is our summer  
schedule up  
through  
Labor Day. Mark  
your calendars so  
you don't miss  
anything!**

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Nancy Lee Pride (2024)

## FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

### CHILDREN & YOUTH

### MISSION/OUTREACH

Mieke Beckman (2023) Chairman and Elder

June Jennings (2023) Elder

### FOUNDATION

Rob Otte (2024) Chairman and Elder

Patrick Frobe (2023) Elder

**TREASURER:** Fred Kirk

**CLERK:** June Jennings

The membership of Kirk of Our Savior approved changes to the by-laws 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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# Cereal for Summer

The annual Cereal for Summer campaign is underway in the Presbytery. This year, we will be collecting boxes of cereal to use here at our food pantry. Cereal is an item that doesn't sit on our shelves for long. Several of our visitors prefer cereal because of the ease with which they can prepare and eat it. If you would like to participate in the Cereal for Summer campaign, please leave the cereal near the table next to the water fountain.



SUMMER

Presbytery of Detroit  
Hunger Ministries Program

## Cereal for Summer!

Join our **Seventh** annual **CEREAL FOR SUMMER CAMPAIGN** and help us feed the hungry



Jesus said,  
"You give them something to eat"



### Financial Report as of 6/30/2022

	June	Year to Date	Budget
<b>Income</b>	3,123	36,378	47,828
<b>Expenses</b>	8,482	62,238	59,136
<b>Net Income or Loss</b>	-5,359	-25,860	-11,308
<b>Liquid Assets*</b>	100,564	100,564	

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

June was heavily impacted by paper losses in Mutual Funds of about \$4,000. Without that amount the month would be about at budgeted levels. The losses have also reduced our liquid assets which still remain ample for the short term. Some additional transfers from savings currently about \$11,000 will likely occur in early August.

*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*



# LEARN THROUGH PLAY PRESCHOOL



# August 2022

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

# September 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 7:30-9pm <i>Alanon-Lounge</i>	3
4 10am-Worship	5 7:30-9pm <i>BiPolar Depression Support Group Meeting-Lounge</i>	6	7	8	9 7:30-9pm <i>Alanon-Lounge</i>	10



## August 2022 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.*

### **Monday, August 1**

Morning: Pss. 62; 145  
Evening: Pss. 73; 9  
Judg. 6:25–40  
Acts 2:37–47  
John 1:1–18

### **Tuesday, August 2**

Morning: Pss. 12; 146  
Evening: Pss. 36; 7  
Judg. 7:1–18  
Acts 3:1–11  
John 1:19–28

### **Wednesday, August 3**

Morning: Pss. 96; 147:1–11  
Evening: Pss. 132; 134  
Judg. 7:19–8:12  
Acts 3:12–26  
John 1:29–42

### **Thursday, August 4**

Morning: Pss. 116;  
147:12–20  
Evening: Pss. 26; 130  
Judg. 8:22–35  
Acts 4:1–12  
John 1:43–51

### **Friday, August 5**

Morning: Pss. 84; 148  
Evening: Pss. 25; 40  
Judg. 9:1–16, 19–21  
Acts 4:13–31  
John 2:1–12

### **Saturday, August 6**

Morning: Pss. 63; 149  
Evening: Pss. 125; 90  
Judg. 9:22–25, 50–57  
Acts 4:32–5:11  
John 2:13–25

### **Sunday, August 7**

Morning: Pss. 103; 150  
Evening: Pss. 117; 139  
Judg. 11:1–11, 29–40  
2 Cor. 11:21b–31  
Mark 4:35–41

### **Monday, August 8**

Morning: Pss. 5; 145  
Evening: Pss. 82; 29  
Judg. 12:1–7  
Acts 5:12–26  
John 3:1–21

### **Tuesday, August 9**

Morning: Pss. 42; 146  
Evening: Pss. 102; 133  
Judg. 13:1–15  
Acts 5:27–42  
John 3:22–36

### **Wednesday, August 10**

Morning: Pss. 89:1–18;  
147:1–11  
Evening: Pss. 1; 33  
Judg. 13:15–24  
Acts 6:1–15  
John 4:1–26

### **Thursday, August 11**

Morning: Pss. 97; 147:12–20  
Evening: Pss. 16; 62  
Judg. 14:1–19  
Acts 6:15–7:16  
John 4:27–42

### **Friday, August 12**

Morning: Pss. 51; 148  
Evening: Pss. 142; 65  
Judg. 14:20–15:20  
Acts 7:17–29  
John 4:43–54

### **Saturday, August 13**

Morning: Pss. 104; 149  
Evening: Pss. 138; 98  
Judg. 16:1–14  
Acts 7:30–43  
John 5:1–18

### **Sunday, August 14**

Morning: Pss. 19; 150  
Evening: Pss. 81; 113  
Judg. 16:15–31  
2 Cor. 13:1–11  
Mark 5:25–34

### **Monday, August 15**

Morning: Pss. 135; 145  
Evening: Pss. 97; 112  
Judg. 17:1–13  
Acts 7:44–8:1a  
John 5:19–29

**Tuesday, August 16**

Morning: Pss. 123; 146  
 Evening: Pss. 30; 86  
 Judg. 18:1–15  
 Acts 8:1–13  
 John 5:30–47

**Wednesday, August 17**

Morning: Pss. 15; 147:1–11  
 Evening: Pss. 48; 4  
 Judg. 18:16–31  
 Acts 8:14–25  
 John 6:1–15

**Thursday, August 18**

Morning: Pss. 36; 147:12–20  
 Evening: Pss. 80; 27  
 Job 1:1–22  
 Acts 8:26–40  
 John 6:16–27

**Friday, August 19**

Morning: Pss. 130; 148  
 Evening: Pss. 32; 139  
 Job 2:1–13  
 Acts 9:1–9  
 John 6:27–40

**Saturday, August 20**

Morning: Pss. 56; 149  
 Evening: Pss. 118; 111  
 Job 3:1–26  
 Acts 9:10–19a  
 John 6:41–51

**Sunday, August 21**

Morning: Pss. 67; 150  
 Evening: Pss. 46; 93  
 Job 4:1–6, 12–21  
 Rev. 4:1–11  
 Mark 6:1–6a

**Monday, August 22**

Morning: Pss. 57; 145  
 Evening: Pss. 85; 47  
 Job 4:1; 5:1–11, 17–21,  
 26–27  
 Acts 9:19b–31  
 John 6:52–59

**Tuesday, August 23**

Morning: Pss. 54; 146  
 Evening: Pss. 28; 99  
 Job 6:1–4, 8–15, 21  
 Acts 9:32–43  
 John 6:60–71

**Wednesday, August 24**

Morning: Pss. 65; 147:1–11  
 Evening: Pss. 125; 91  
 Job 6:1; 7:1–21  
 Acts 10:1–16  
 John 7:1–13

**Thursday, August 25**

Morning: Pss. 143;  
 147:12–20  
 Evening: Pss. 81; 116  
 Job 8:1–10, 20–22  
 Acts 10:17–33  
 John 7:14–36

**Friday, August 26**

Morning: Pss. 88; 148  
 Evening: Pss. 6; 20  
 Job 9:1–15, 32–35  
 Acts 10:34–48  
 John 7:37–52

**Saturday, August 27**

Morning: Pss. 122; 149  
 Evening: Pss. 100; 63  
 Job 9:1; 10:1–9, 16–22  
 Acts 11:1–18  
 John 8:12–20

**Sunday, August 28**

Morning: Pss. 108; 150  
 Evening: Pss. 66; 23  
 Job. 11:1–9, 13–20  
 Rev. 5:1–14  
 Matt. 5:1–12

**Monday, August 29**

Morning: Pss. 62; 145  
 Evening: Pss. 73; 9  
 Job 12:1–6, 13–25  
 Acts 11:19–30  
 John 8:21–32

**Tuesday, August 30**

Morning: Pss. 12; 146  
 Evening: Pss. 36; 7  
 Job 12:1; 13:3–17, 21–27  
 Acts 12:1–17  
 John 8:33–47

**Wednesday, August 31**

Morning: Pss. 96; 147:1–11  
 Evening: Pss. 132; 134  
 Job 12:1; 14:1–22  
 Acts 12:18–25  
 John 8:47–59