

THE KIRK KONNECTION

Editor: Carolyn Marnon

April 2023

*April is the cruellest month, breeding
Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing
Memory and desire, stirring
Dull roots with spring rain.
Winter kept us warm, covering
Earth in forgetful snow, feeding
A little life with dried tubers.*



T.S. Eliot, in the opening of *The Waste Land*, directly challenges Geoffrey Chaucer's view of the month of April. It is not a time for optimism; it is a moment in which we are mocked by our surroundings. Flowers might be blooming, but it's amid the ruin of the human experience from which we cannot escape.

On the 100th anniversary of this poem's publication, James Parker delves into Eliot's mind and his content while holding it up to our world today. His opening was as captivating as Eliot's:

April is the cruellest month because we are stuck. We've stopped dead and we're going rotten. We are living in the demesne of the crippled king, the Fisher King, where everything sickens and nothing adds up, where the imagination is in shreds, where dark fantasies enthrall us, where men and women are estranged from themselves and one another, and where the cyclical itch of springtime – the spasm in the earth; the sizzling bud; even the gentle, germinal rain – only reminds us how very, very far we are from being reborn.

We will not be delivered from this, or not anytime soon. That's why April is cruel. That's why April is ironic. That's why muddy old, sprout old April, bustling around in hedgerows, brings us down.

I read those lines over and over. Given the state of our world today, this perspective makes so much sense to me.

...and, at the same time, it makes no sense at all. I fully understand the cynical commentary of Eliot and, also, of Parker. There is no denying the ugliness of our world or the evil of which humanity has proven capable. There is no reason to say that the world is what it is not, and I will not claim that we as human beings are something we are not.

But, as a Christian, I have a far different take on the month of April.

April is the season of Easter, during which we all are reborn. In this time we are all delivered from the ugliness of death and decay with which Eliot was obsessed during his composition of this poem. In the month of April we encounter hope, optimism and joy. Before Christ's death, we were tethered to the permanence of *The Waste Land*. We were prisoners of its hopelessness, chained to its awful, irrevocable fate. We marched inexorably through our earthly lives to a permanent existence of dust...our consciousness and souls lost in the sea of sin from which we could never escape.

Our April is not that April. In Jesus death, our debt was paid. In his resurrection, the picture of April that Eliot and Parker paint for us is merely that: a picture. It is not our reality. *Our* April is possibility. *Our* April is assurance that permanent sunshine awaits and that we will be free of all temporal pain and suffering. *Our* April is Easter. It is Jesus. It is resurrection. It is boundless joy and opportunity.

For the Christian, April is a time of bloom and of light. April is a time of liberation, for **HE IS RISEN.**

Pastor Mike

LEARN THROUGH PLAY PRESCHOOL

Hello Spring!

We are ready for warmer weather and sunshine. We have been busy getting our 4 year olds ready for kindergarten. Our writing skills are progressing everyday. Our favorite area of study right now is building ramps for different types of balls. We are able to incorporate math and science to this study.

Our toddler students continue to take part in hands-on learning experiences to include: process art, water play, and other fun activities.

We finished the month with a popcorn and movie day at school. Always a hit!

-Ms. Tara



Stevenson Middle School Appreciates the Kirk

These kids (right-hand column) won \$50 Amazon gift cards by cashing in 50 PBIS (*Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports*) points for a raffle ticket. We awarded five kids per grade level. So awesome!

We were able to treat the staff to a catered lunch from Texas Roadhouse. We tied this to our incredible student growth data we saw from our winter testing session.

Thank you for all you do! We are so appreciative of the gift you've given our school. Bless you!



These are the two most recent staff members (above) who won the \$500 gift cards for their extra work with the kids.

Cari Littlefield spent her planning periods in our Behavior Support Room working with students on their reflections when they made poor behavioral choices.

Caitlin Griffith works with a group of students in a Club she created about Animate.

They are both great staff members and such great advocates for our students.



Photos and Text provided by Kimberly Doman, Principal



grat-i-tude
[grat i tood]
noun
the quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness





Christopher White was Stevenson Middle School's Recess Reading March raffle winner!

He plans to use his \$50 Amazon gift card to purchase a Percy Jackson notebook to document his reading.



Good Friday Service
Friday, April 7, 2023 at 6 PM

Easter Hot Breakfast
Sunday, April 9, 2023 at 9 AM in Fellowship Hall

Easter Worship
Sunday, April 9, 2023 at 10:30 AM



Financial Report as of 2/28/2023

	February	Year to Date	Budget
Income	6,130	18,354	16,828
Expenses	9,119	18,827	20,011
Net Income or Loss	-2,989	-473	-3,183
Liquid Assets*	92,282	92,282	

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

February numbers are better than the bottom line due to a noncash loss of \$2,100 in Kirk mutual fund investment. The cash numbers are also above budget by \$500. Income was also helped by an increase in Care Village Birthday givings.

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.

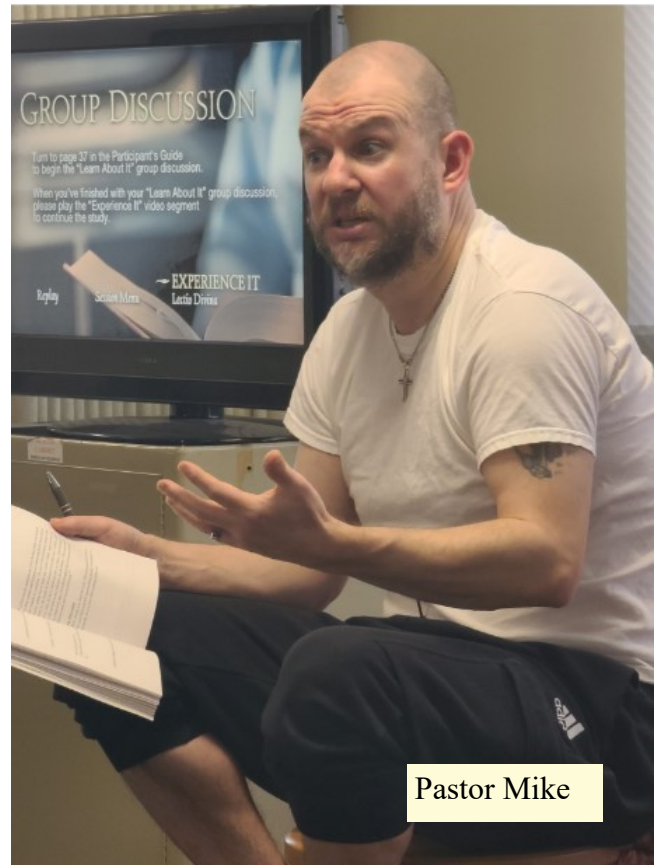
It is the vision of this church to become a living example of God's love, called to show Christ to those within the church community by offering ourselves in service to those in need and inviting all to share in this vision.

Lenten Bible Study 2023

Kirk members were thrilled to be able to gather again after a long hiatus due to Covid-19. This Lenten season, they viewed videos and participated in group discussion using the 6-session guide to Sacred Rhythms by Ruth Haley Barton.



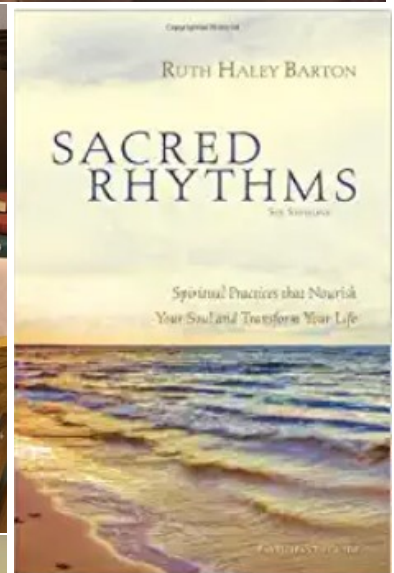
Judy Walker and Bob Cindric



Pastor Mike



Diane Weigel, NancyLee Pride, Betty Willox, Madeline Carpenter and Ruth Duvall.





APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 6 Fred Kirk
- 11 Jeremy Jackson
- 28 Ada McMechan

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.



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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April 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]

Saturday, April 1

Morning: Pss. 43; 149
Evening: Pss. 31; 143
Jer. 31:27–34
Rom. 11:25–36
John 11:28–44 or John
12:37–50

Sunday, April 2

Palm/Passion Sunday

Morning: Pss. 84; 150
Evening: Pss. 42; 32
Zech. 9:9–12
1 Tim. 6:12–16 or Zech.
12:9–11; 13:1, 7–9
Matt. 21:12–1

Monday, April 3

Monday of Holy Week

Morning: Pss. 119:73–80;
145
Evening: Pss. 121; 6
Jer. 11:18–20; 12:1–16
(17)
Phil. 3:1–14
John 12:9–19

Tuesday, April 4

Tuesday of Holy Week

Morning: Pss. 34; 146
Evening: Pss. 25; 91
Jer. 15:10–21
Phil. 3:15–21
John 12:20–26

Wednesday, April 5

Wednesday of Holy Week

Morning: Pss. 5; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 27; 51
Jer. 17:5–10, 14–17 (18)
Phil. 4:1–13
John 12:27–36

Thursday, April 6

Maundy Thursday

Morning: Pss. 27;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 126; 102
Jer. 20:7–11 (12–13)
14–18
1 Cor. 10:14–17; 11:27–32
John 17:1–11 (12–26)

Friday, April 7

Good Friday

Morning: Pss. 22; 148
Evening: Pss. 105; 130
Gen. 22:1–14
1 Peter 1:10–20
John 13:36–38 or John
19:38–42

Saturday, April 8

Holy Saturday

Morning: Pss. 43; 149
Evening: Pss. 31; 143
Job 19:21–27a
Heb. 4:1–16
Rom. 8:1–11

Sunday, April 9

Resurrection of the Lord / Easter

Morning: Pss. 93; 150
Evening: Pss. 136; 117
Exod. 12:1–14
John 1:1–18
or Isa. 51:9–11
Luke 24:13–35
or John 20:19–23

Monday, April 10

Morning: Pss. 97; 145
Evening: Pss. 124; 115
Jonah 2:1–10
Acts 2:14, 22–32
John 14:1–14

Tuesday, April 11

Morning: Pss. 98; 146
Evening: Pss. 66; 116
Isa. 30:18–26
Acts 2:36–41 (42–47)
John 14:15–31

Wednesday, April 12

Morning: Pss. 99;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 9; 118
Micah 7:7–15
Acts 3:1–10
John 15:1–11

Thursday, April 13

Morning: Pss. 47;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 68; 113
Ezek. 37:1–14
Acts 3:11–26
John 15:12–27

Friday, April 14

Morning: Pss. 96; 148
 Evening: Pss. 49; 138
 Dan. 12:1–4, 13
 Acts 4:1–12
 John 16:1–15

Saturday, April 15

Morning: Pss. 92; 149
 Evening: Pss. 23; 114
 Isa. 25:1–9
 Acts 4:13–21 (22–31)
 John 16:16–33

Sunday, April 16**Second Sunday of Easter**

Morning: Pss. 93; 150
 Evening: Pss. 136; 117
 Isa. 43:8–13
 1 Peter 2:2–10
 John 14:1–7

Monday, April 17

Morning: Pss. 97; 145
 Evening: Pss. 124; 115
 Dan. 1:1–21
 1 John 1:1–10
 John 17:1–11

Tuesday, April 18

Morning: Pss. 98; 146
 Evening: Pss. 66; 116
 Dan. 2:1–16
 1 John 2:1–11
 John 17:12–19

Wednesday, April 19

Morning: Pss. 99;
 147:1–11
 Evening: Pss. 9; 118
 Dan. 2:17–30
 1 John 2:12–17
 John 17:20–26

Thursday, April 20

Morning: Pss. 47;
 147:12–20
 Evening: Pss. 68; 113
 Dan. 2:31–49
 1 John 2:18–29
 Luke 3:1–14

Friday, April 21

Morning: Pss. 96; 148
 Evening: Pss. 49; 138
 Dan. 3:1–18
 1 John 3:1–10
 Luke 3:15–22

Saturday, April 22

Morning: Pss. 92; 149
 Evening: Pss. 23; 114
 Dan. 3:19–30
 1 John 3:11–18
 Luke 4:1–13

Sunday, April 23**Third Sunday of Easter**

Morning: Pss. 93; 150
 Evening: Pss. 136; 117
 Dan. 4:1–18
 1 Peter 4:7–11
 John 21:15–25

Monday, April 24

Morning: Pss. 97; 145
 Evening: Pss. 124; 115
 Dan. 4:19–27
 1 John 3:19–4:6
 Luke 4:14–30

Tuesday, April 25

Morning: Pss. 98; 146
 Evening: Pss. 66; 116
 Dan. 4:28–37
 1 John 4:7–21
 Luke 4:31–37

Wednesday, April 26

Morning: Pss. 99;
 147:1–11
 Evening: Pss. 9; 118
 Dan. 5:1–12
 1 John 5:1–12
 Luke 4:38–44

Thursday, April 27

Morning: Pss. 47;
 147:12–20
 Evening: Pss. 68; 113
 Dan. 5:13–30
 1 John 5:13–20 (21)
 Luke 5:1–11

Friday, April 28

Morning: Pss. 96; 148
 Evening: Pss. 49; 138
 Dan. 6:1–15
 2 John 1–13
 Luke 5:12–26

Saturday, April 29

Morning: Pss. 92; 149
 Evening: Pss. 23; 114
 Dan. 6:16–28
 3 John 1–15
 Luke 5:27–39

Sunday, April 30**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Morning: Pss. 93; 150
 Evening: Pss. 136; 117
 Gen. 18:22–33
 1 Peter 5:1–11
 Matt. 7:15–29

April 2023

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