

# THE KIRK KONNECTION

Editor: Carolyn Marnon

February 2020



It's been an emotionally taxing week. I'll spare the bulk of the details but I'd like to share my thoughts on two events from the past several days.

On Saturday, my wife couldn't get up from the couch and was sleeping. Two year old Theo wanted to see Mommy but was told he could not. I was in the kitchen doing the dishes, but turned to watch him as he tried so hard to do as he was told; walking over to her from multiple sides and reaching his arms out toward her but putting them down because he knew he wasn't supposed to climb up. His frustration reached a crescendo when he finally burst into tears and looked up and over at me and quietly said, "Need hug."

Quickly picking up the million shattered pieces of my heart from the floor, I ran over and swept him up into my arms and held him. Several minutes later he was happy again and playing with toys and all was well in his fragile little world.

I was not present at the second event, but it has already made national news. On Monday night in my town of Saline, MI, a parent meeting with the school district was held in order to address racial attitudes amongst teenagers (days before on Snapchat, a group of white football players added their black teammates to the group by referring to them as the "N-word."). At the meeting, a man who emigrated from Mexico to Saline in 1980 was in the middle of chronicling the racial slurs his three children had suffered in Saline Area Schools – and the toll that this treatment had taken on them – when a man in the crowd yelled out, "Then why didn't you stay in Mexico?"

As stated, this event has become national news not just because it illustrates the fact that racism exists in our schools and amongst our children. It was also an eye-opening example of how this racism is open *and blatant* and, unfortunately, often starts at home with parents who pass it on to their own children (side note: a son of the man who made the racist comment has publicly disavowed his father's comments and views).

I wonder at how much those children of Adrian Iraola, the man who immigrated to Saline and is a very successful business owner, had to suffer through the cruel treatment that their father described. Being a kid – especially a teenager – is hard enough. I'm 40 years of age but I will never forget how fragile even I – an average, athletic white male in a very predominantly white location – was in those years. I did my best to hide it, but adolescence can be a nightmare for so many of us. I worried about ridiculous things every day, and always was afraid of embarrassment or getting into a fight. I remember only wanting to fit in and have friends...nothing mattered more than my safety net. How much worse would it have been if I had to suffer through outright discrimination and ostracization from my very own peers...based solely on the color of my skin? No safety net, nowhere to run, nowhere to hide....only hatred and abuse, and having to suffer it publicly.

All I've been able to think about the past few days is those three children of Iraola's frantically looking for someone who would save them from their despair, holding back silent tears while enduring cruel taunts from their peers and thinking, "Need hug."



If that elicits ANY emotion in you, here is my message: the crying 2 year old and the fragile teenager exist in ALL of us. If we could respond to *everyone* in our world – children *and* adults – the way I hope we would want to respond to a toddler or an adolescent who is suffering, we would be a lot quicker to treat people the way Christ taught us to. We would be a lot more prone to providing “hugs” than we would to turn the other way or to blatantly mistreat one of our fellow human beings. For some reason when we adults look at other adults we don’t see a shred of innocence; there’s no cute cuddly puppy dog. There’s no baby or child to fawn over. There’s just an ugly human being that’s completely undeserving of our attention or affection (the last few days I’ve wondered if the world would be a better place if we who are adults just taped a picture of a puppy or a baby or two otters holding hands over our faces. Thoughts?).

We who are adults may have lost our innocence, but that’s no reason to throw away our humanity. As Christians we are *not* called to be selective with our love. We are to love *everyone*.

If this means we have to view everyone in the same light that we see a 2 year old or a mistreated adolescent or any kind of innocent, so be it. If this means we need to engage in fervent prayer for them, all the better. In Life Together, Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, “I can no longer condemn or hate a brother [or sister] for whom I pray, no matter how much trouble he causes me. His face that hitherto may have been strange and intolerable to me is transformed through intercession into the countenance of a brother for whom Christ died.”

The faces of everyone that we encounter must be similarly transformed. Christ died for *all* of us: the defenseless 2 year olds to whom our hearts go out, but also to those ugly adults that cut us off on the freeway. Those who are white, and those who are black or Mexican or any other race. *Everyone*.

The world is a hard enough place to navigate. There’s no reason to make it harder by our daily (mis) treatment of others. When it comes to our existence here on earth, we are all in this together. Let’s act like it.

*Pastor Mike*





The Classy Lassies and Grazers will meet on Wednesday, February 26.

Please gather at 11:30 in the church lounge. Those attending will decide together where to go for lunch that day. All are invited!

## FEBRUARY Birthdays

3 Nancy Pride  
15 Brian Shrewsbury



Christine Davison

December 22, 1930-January 7, 2020

Judy Curtis

February 24, 1950-January 10, 2020

## FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Friday, February 21

Ring in the new year as we come together in the Fellowship Hall for games and goodies for our monthly family fun night. All are invited! Bring your friends, family and neighbors!

## PER CAPITA 2020

The 2020 Per Capita amount per member will be \$31.



## Ash Wednesday

### Worship: February 26

### 6:00 p.m.



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Your Deacons are looking for volunteers to help with the annual Easter breakfast this year. Please consider giving of your time and talents to ensure this annual tradition continues as the Kirk. See Judy Walker for more details.

February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 10:30am-Worship in Sanctuary	3 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group-Lounge	4 6-8pm-Girl Scouts-Lounge 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus-Fellowship Hall	5	6 7-9pm Harmony Town Board Meeting-Lounge	7 7:45-9:30pm Alanon-Lounge	8 9:30am-Choir Practice Noon-5pm Private Rental-Fellowship/Kitchen
9 10:30am-Worship in Sanctuary Session-Fellowship	10 6:30-8:30pm Hope 4 Healing Hearts-Fellowship Hall 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group-Lounge	11 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus-Fellowship Hall	12	13	14 7:45-9:30pm Alanon-Lounge	15 9:30am-Choir Practice
16 10:30am-Worship in Sanctuary	17 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group-Lounge	18 6-8pm-Girl Scouts-Lounge 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus-Fellowship Hall	19	20	21 6pm-Family Fun Night-Fellowship 7:45-9:30pm Alanon-Lounge	22 9:30am-Choir Practice
23 10:30am-Worship in Sanctuary Deacons-Sanctuary	24 6:30-8:30pm Hope 4 Healing Hearts-Fellowship Hall 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support	25 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus-Fellowship Hall	26 11:30 am Classy Lassies and Grazers Lunch	27	28 7:45-9:30pm Alanon-Lounge	29 9:30am-Choir Practice

**If you find anything that you feel needs to be corrected in the following minutes of the annual congregational meeting, please contact Jenny Root at 734-744-6316 or by email at [grenny@earthlink.net](mailto:grenny@earthlink.net). Thank you.**

Kirk of Our Savior **Annual Congregational Meeting**  
January 26, 2020

The Clerk of Session verified that there was a quorum present (29 members), so the meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Mike at 12:23 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

It was MOVED by Judy Walker, SECONDED, and CARRIED to approve the agenda as presented. It was noted that the minutes of the 2019 annual congregational meeting are first in the agenda, and that they were approved at the February, 2019, Session meeting. NOTE – the Clerk made the minutes available to the membership in the monthly newsletter and asked to be notified if any corrections needed to be made. None were requested. It was MOVED by Sharon Garcia, SECONDED, and CARRIED to accept the minutes as written.

The following reports were presented for approval:

Board of Deacons	Worship
Clerk of Session	Music Department
Children & Youth	Treasurer's:
Church Foundation	a) 2019 Audit
Fellowship	b) Statement of Benevolence
Outreach/Mission	c) Balance Sheet
Pastor's	d) Income Statement

NOTE – the line item on the agenda to discuss possible reorganization of Session and the Board of Deacons was partially discussed during the Deacon report. It was MOVED by Jenny Root, SECONDED, and CARRIED to approve the reports as presented.

After the opportunity for discussion, it was MOVED by Judy Walker, SECONDED, and CARRIED to approve the 2020 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 2020 Operating Budget.

At this time, the state of 'affairs' concerning the lack of volunteers to serve on the board of deacons and Session was discussed, including the fact that the session will be sending a letter to the Presbytery, explaining the situation and asking for a waiver in term limitations, what it means for the Kirk to have fewer people serving, and what can be done to still get the work done, i.e. project volunteers, a calls & card team, etc. Because of this frank discussion, 2 additional names were put into nomination.

The following elections took place:

OFFICERS

For Deacons, class of 2023: Lois Hanley

Elders, class of 2023: Patrick Frobe, Mieke Beckman, and June Jennings.

It was MOVED by Jenny Root, SECONDED, and CARRIED to close nominations and 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 Bill Partaka, SECONDED, and CARRIED to elect Joan and John.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

NancyLee Pride, John Jennings, and Georgeen Kirk were nominated to serve; it was MOVED by Jenny Root, SECONDED, and CARRIED to elect them.

The Moderator temporarily recessed the meeting of the congregation at 1:10 p.m. to take care of the business of the Corporation.

**Kirk of Our Savior Annual Meeting of the Corporation**  
January 26, 2020

The meeting was called to order by the president, Cindy Handford, at 1:10 p.m. The President verified that the following officers were in attendance: Vice President Madeline Carpenter, Secretary Jenny Root, and Treasurer Fred Kirk.

The minutes of the January 27, 2019 annual meeting were presented; it was MOVED by Sharon Garcia, SECONDED, and CARRIED to approve the minutes as written.

It was MOVED by Colleen Williamson, SECONDED, and CARRIED to remove Dorothy Albright, NancyLee Pride, and Judy Curtis from the Board of Trustees, and elect Mieke Beckman and June Jennings to the Board.

It was MOVED by Jenny Root, SECONDED, and CARRIED to adjourn the meeting of the Corporation at 1:11 p.m.

**The meeting of the Congregation** resumed at 1:11 p.m. It was MOVED by Jenny, 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 next monthly newsletter.

It was MOVED by Bill Partaka, SECONDED, and CARRIED to adjourn the meeting at 1:12 p.m. with prayer by Pastor Mike and song.

**TERMS OF CALL** for Rev. Michael Beckman, 2020:

EFFECTIVE SALARY	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Salary	\$27,979	\$26,063
Housing Allowance	<u>19,720</u>	<u>19,365</u>
TOTAL:	47,699	45,428
PAID BENEFITS		
Major Medical	11,925	11,357
Pension	5,247	4,997
Death Benefit	477	454
Social Security	3,649	3,475
REIMBURSED EXPENSES		
Study Allowance	1,000	1,000
Professional Expenses	<u>1,500</u>	<u>1,500</u>
TOTAL COMPENSATION	\$71,497	\$68,211

Mike receives 4 weeks Personal Leave and 2 weeks Study Leave

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Jenny M. Root, Clerk of Session

## February 2020 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.*

### **February**

Saturday, February 1 Morning: Pss. 122; 149 Evening: Pss. 100; 63 Gen. 18:1–16 Heb. 10:26–39 John 6:16–27	Thursday, February 6 Morning: Pss. 116; 147:12–20 Evening: Pss. 26; 130 Gen. 23:1–20 Heb. 11:32–12:2 John 6:60–71	Wednesday, February 12 Morning: Pss. 89:1–18; 147:1–11 Evening: Pss. 1; 33 Gen. 27:1–29 Rom. 12:1–8 John 8:12–20
Sunday, February 2 Morning: Pss 108; 150 Evening: Pss. 66; 23 Gen. 18:16–33 Gal. 5:13–25 Mark 8:22–30	Friday, February 7 Morning: Pss. 84; 148 Evening: Pss. 25; 40 Gen. 24:1–27 Heb. 12:3–11 John 7:1–13	Thursday, February 13 Morning: Pss. 97; 147:12–20 Evening: Pss. 16; 62 Gen. 27:30–45 Rom. 12:9–21 John 8:21–32
Monday, February 3 Morning Pss. 62, 145 Evening Pss. 73, 9 Gen. 19:1–17 (18–23) 24–29 Heb. 11:1–12 John 6:27–40	Saturday, February 8 Morning: Pss. 63; 149 Evening: Pss. 125; 90 Gen. 24:28–38, 49–51 Heb. 12:12–29 John 7:14–36	Friday, February 14 Morning: Pss. 51; 148 Evening: Pss. 142; 65 Gen. 27:46–28:4, 10–22 Rom. 13:1–14 John 8:33–47
Tuesday, February 4 Morning Pss. 12, 146 Evening Pss. 36, 7 Gen. 21:1–21 Heb. 11:13–22 John 6:41–51	Sunday, February 9 Morning: Pss. 103; 150 Evening: Pss. 117; 139 Gen. 24:50–67 2 Tim. 2:14–21 Mark 10:13–22	Saturday, February 15 Morning: Ps. 104; 149 Evening: Ps. 138; 98 Gen. 29:1–20 Rom. 14:1–23 John 8:47–59
Wednesday, February 5 Morning: Pss. 96; 147:1–11 Evening: Pss. 132; 134 Gen. 22:1–18 Heb. 11:23–31 John 6:52–59	Monday, February 10 Morning: Pss. 5; 145 Evening: Pss. 82; 29 Gen. 25:19–34 Heb. 13:1–16 John 7:37–52	Sunday, February 16 Morning: Pss. 19; 150 Evening: Pss. 81; 113 Gen. 29:20–35 1 Tim. 3:14–4:10 Mark 10:23–31
	Tuesday, February 11 Morning: Pss. 42; 146 Evening: Pss. 102; 133 Gen. 26:1–6, 12–33 Heb. 13:17–25 John 7:53–8:11	Monday, February 17 Morning: Pss. 135; 145 Evening: Pss. 97; 112 Gen. 30:1–24 1 John 1:1–10 John 9:1–17

Tuesday, February 18  
Morning: Pss. 123; 146  
Evening: Pss. 30; 86  
Gen. 31:1–24  
1 John 2:1–11  
John 9:18–41

Wednesday, February 19  
Morning: Pss. 15; 147:1–11  
Evening: Pss. 48; 4  
Gen. 31:25–50  
1 John 2:12–17  
John 10:1–18

Thursday, February 20  
Morning: Pss. 36; 147:12–20  
Evening: Pss. 80; 27  
Gen. 32:3–21  
1 John 2:18–29  
John 10:19–30

Friday, February 21  
Morning: Pss. 130; 148  
Evening: Pss. 32; 139  
Gen. 32:22–33:17  
1 John 3:1–10  
John 10:31–42

Saturday, February 22  
Morning: Pss. 56; 149  
Evening: Pss. 118; 111  
Gen. 35:1–20  
1 John 3:11–18  
John 11:1–16

Sunday, February 23  
Transfiguration of the Lord  
Morning Pss. 103, 150  
Evening Pss. 117, 139  
Mal. 4:1–6  
2 Cor. 3:7–18  
Luke 9:18–27

Monday, February 24  
Morning Pss. 5, 145  
Evening Pss. 82, 29  
Prov. 27:1–6, 10–12  
Phil. 2:1–13  
John 18:15–18, 25–27

Tuesday, February 25  
Morning Pss. 42, 146  
Evening Pss. 102, 133  
Prov. 30:1–4, 24–33  
Phil. 3:1–11  
John 18:28–38

Wednesday, February 26  
Ash Wednesday  
Morning Pss. 5, 147:1–11  
Evening Pss. 27, 51  
Amos 5:6–15  
Heb. 12:1–14  
Luke 18:9–14

Thursday, February 27  
Morning Pss. 27,  
147:12–20  
Evening Pss. 126, 102  
Hab. 3:1–10 (11–15)  
16–18  
Phil. 3:12–21  
John 17:1–8

Friday, February 28  
Morning Pss. 22, 148  
Evening Pss. 105, 130  
Ezek. 18:1–4, 25–32  
Phil. 4:1–9  
John 17:9–19

Saturday, February 29  
Morning Pss. 43, 149  
Evening Pss. 31, 143  
Ezek. 39:21–29  
Phil. 4:10–20  
John 17:20–26



## LET'S KEEP THE KIRK BEAUTIFUL

It is wonderful that we have all stepped up and embraced recycling here at the Kirk by collecting empty water bottles, plastic food containers, and the like. It is great that we have an on-going fundraiser, KYKS – Keep Your Kirk Solvent, which is the donation of return-for-deposit bottles and cans, as this money goes into the general funds to purchase paper and cleaning products.

Unfortunately, with our busy lives outside of the church, we are forgetting that someone needs to take the next steps, which is to take the returnables and turn them in for the money and to take the recyclables to be recycled. It does not look good when an outside group rents the fellowship hall and kitchen and sees boxes of recyclables on the floor and a 5 foot tall tower of bottles and cans. And a recycling container in the entry hallway on the way to the lounge isn't the prettiest thing to welcome visitors with, especially if it is over-flowing.

Since we use a dumpster instead of curbside garbage and recyclable pick-up, we have to take care of these items ourselves if we are going to continue with this project. So, if you see a full container of either returnables or recyclables, please take it upon yourself to gather the items up and do what needs to be done. If you take the returnables, cash in the tickets, put the money in an envelope marked KYKS, and add it to the offering plate.

With our small congregation, we all need to pitch in and make sure we are doing all we can to present a welcoming and beautiful place of worship – for ourselves as well as for visitors.

Thank you.



*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.*

### WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Madeline Carpenter (2021), Chairman and Elder

Bonnie Hilberer (2022) Elder

Colleen Williamson (2022) Deacon

### FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Cindy Handford (2022) Chairman and Elder

### CHILDREN & YOUTH

Jenny Root (2022) Chairman and Elder

Peggy Flacks (2022) Deacon

### MISSION/OUTREACH

Mieke Beckman (2023) Chairman and Elder

June Jennings, Elder

Bill Partaka (2021) Deacon

Andrea Alicea (2022) Deacon

### FOUNDATION

Jenny Root (2022) Chairman and Elder

Patrick Frobe (2023) Elder

Judy Walker (2021) Deacon and Deacon Moderator

Deacon assignments may change with the addition of new Deacon Lois Hanley.

**TREASURER:** Fred Kirk

**CLERK:** Jenny Root

A publication for the family and friends of  
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