

THE KIRK KONNECTION

Editor: Carolyn Marnon

January 2020



What does “darkness” mean to you?

We use the word when we talk about the night...or how much we can see or *not* see. But we also use it when referring to something negative or sinister or evil. Sometimes people say “I went to my dark place” or “I was at a dark place in my life.”

In its most basic form, the word refers to an absence of light. When the light is gone, we cannot see anything. Our paths are not lit and our steps are unsure. So it's only natural to be wary of darkness, as our eyes are unable to do the same job of diagnosing danger in the dark as they are of doing so when it's light. But I believe there is more to our relationship with darkness than the visual uncertainty of what physically lies before us.

We have seen enough evil in movies and real life that we are conditioned to associate darkness with the time that bad things happen; it's easier for those who intend harm to achieve their goals when it's not bright enough for people to see them until it's too late.

When darkness comes, the odds that something bad can happen go way up.

While there's no need to grow paranoid about our odds of suffering harm once the sun goes down, it would be quite unreasonable to believe that our overall safety and well-being is the same in conditions of abundant light versus total dark.

Perhaps this is why people describe the frightening or unstable or destructive moments in their lives as “dark times.” It was when evil reigned, when bad things were allowed to happen...when there was uncertainty and pain and an inability to harness or defeat the evil that was wielding control.

We've all had periods of darkness such as these. For the fortunate, they last only a few moments. But others of us have experienced this darkness for periods of days, weeks, months, years...or even lifetimes. Often when we wander (or are ushered) into the dark, we find ourselves in a maze that twists and turns and thwarts our every effort to escape.

There were people in the time of Isaiah who found themselves in just such a maze, and it was to them – and to their descendants – that the prophet wrote:

“Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.”

This was written before Jesus came to be among us; there were those who walked through darkness that had no Messiah to light their way.

None of us need to wallow in this gloom, however, as Jesus is with us during every step we take.



During Advent we celebrated the hope, peace, joy and love we found in our time of preparation for the birth of the Savior....and we lit candles as we added to our collection of reasons that this season was more and more wonderful than we had anticipated even one week before. If we ever find ourselves in one of the aforementioned mazes, the darkness can be defeated if we simply take those candles out and remember Emmanuel: God is with us.

You are not alone.....and you never were.

If you stumble in 2020, just remember to *turn on the lights*.

Pastor Mike





Pastor Mike and Madeline Carpenter serve communion to Wally Jennings on December 16.



Bob Gates and Pastor Mike skipping down the aisle before worship.



NEW MEMBERS!

We are thrilled to welcome our newest members: Breanna, Jeremy and Kim Jackson. Kim is the daughter of Bob and Carolyn Gates. Jeremy and Breanna were also awarded for completing the God and Church curriculum of the P.R.A.Y. program while Kim received her mentorship pin.



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 26

Potluck Assignments Based on Last Names

- A-I Sides Dishes
- J-R Desserts
- S-V Drinks
- W-Z Main Dish

January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 7-9pm Harmony Town Board Meeting- Lounge	3 7:45-9:30pm Alanon-Lounge	4 9:30am- Choir Practice
5 10:30am-Worship in Sanctuary	6 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group-Lounge	7 6-8pm-Girl Scouts-Lounge 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus-Fellowship Hall	8	9	10 7:45-9:30pm Alanon-Lounge	11 9:30am- Choir Practice
12 10:30am-Worship in Sanctuary Session-Fellowship	13 6:30-8:30pm Hope 4 Healing Hearts- Fellowship Hall 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group-Lounge	14 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus-Fellowship Hall	15	16	17 6pm-Family Fun Night- Fellowship 7:45-9:30pm Alanon-Lounge	18 9:30am- Choir Practice 11am-3pm Private Rental- Fellowship/ Kitchen
19 10:30am-Worship in Sanctuary	20 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group-Lounge	21 6-8pm-Girl Scouts-Lounge 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus-Fellowship Hall	22	23	24 7:45-9:30pm Alanon-Lounge	25 9:30am- Choir Practice
26 10:30am-Worship in Sanctuary Deacons-Sanctuary Annual Congregational Meeting	27 6:30-8:30pm Hope 4 Healing Hearts- Fellowship Hall 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group-Lounge	28 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus-Fellowship Hall	29 11:30 am Classy Lassies and Grazers Lunch	30	31 7:45-9:30pm Alanon-Lounge	

January 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.

[Year 2]

January

Wednesday, January 1

Morning: Pss. 98; 147:1–11

Evening: Pss. 99; 8

Isa. 62:1–5, 10–12

Rev. 19:11–16

Matt. 1:18–25

Thursday, January 2

Morning: Pss. 48; 147:12–20

Evening: Pss. 9; 29

1 Kings 19:1–8

Eph. 4:1–16

John 6:1–14

Friday, January 3

Morning: Pss. 111; 148

Evening: Pss. 107; 15

1 Kgs. 19:9–18

Eph. 4:17–32

John 6:15–27

Saturday, January 4

Morning: Pss. 20; 149

Evening: Pss. 93; 97

Josh. 3:14–4:7

Eph. 5:1–20

John 9:1–12, 35–38

Sunday, January 5

2nd Sunday of Christmas

Morning: Pss. 99; 150

Evening: Pss. 96; 110

1 Kgs. 3:5–14

Col. 3:12–17

John 6:41–47

Monday, January 6

Epiphany of the Lord

Morning: Pss. 72; 145

Evening: Pss. 100; 67

Isa. 49:1–7

Rev. 21:22–27

Matt. 12:14–21

Tuesday, January 7

Morning: Pss. 46 or 97; 146

Evening: Pss. 27; 93; or 114

Deut. 8:1–3

Col. 1:1–14

John 6:30–33, 48–51

Wednesday, January 8

Morning: Pss. 46 or 47;

147:1–10

Evening: Pss. 27; 93; or 114

Exod. 7:1–7

Col. 1:15–23

John 7:37–52

Thursday, January 9

Morning: Pss. 46 or 47;

147:12–20

Evening: Pss. 27; 93; or 114

Isa. 45:14–19

Col. 1:24–2:7

John 8:12–19

Friday, January 10

Morning: Pss. 46 or 47; 148

Evening: Pss. 27; 93; or 114

Jer. 23:1–8

Col. 2:8–23

John 10:7–17

Saturday, January 11

Morning: Pss. 46 or 47; 149

Evening: Pss. 27; 93; or 114

Isa. 55:3–9

Col. 3:1–17

John 14:6–14

Sunday, January 12

Baptism of the Lord

Morning: Pss. 104; 150

Evening: Ps. 29

Gen. 1:1–2:3

Eph. 1:3–14

John 1:29–34

Monday, January 13

Morning: Pss. 5; 145

Evening: Pss. 82; 29

Gen. 2:4–9 (10–15) 16–25

Heb. 1:1–14

John 1:1–18

Tuesday, January 14

Morning: Pss. 42; 146

Evening: Pss. 102; 133

Gen. 3:1–24

Heb. 2:1–10

John 1:19–28

Wednesday, January 15

Morning: Pss. 89:1–18;

147:1–11

Evening: Pss. 1; 33

Gen. 4:1–16

Heb. 2:11–18

John 1:(29–34) 35–42

Thursday, January 16
Morning: Pss. 97; 147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 16; 62
Gen. 4:17–26
Heb. 3:1–11
John 1:43–51

Friday, January 17
Morning: Pss. 51; 148
Evening: Pss. 142; 65
Gen. 6:1–8
Heb. 3:12–19
John 2:1–12

Saturday, January 18
Morning: Pss. 104; 149
Evening: Pss. 138; 98
Gen. 6:9–22
Heb. 4:1–13
John 2:13–22

Sunday, January 19
Morning: Pss. 19; 150
Evening: Pss. 81; 113
Gen. 7:1–10, 17–23
Eph. 4:1–16
Mark 3:7–19

Monday, January 20
Morning: Pss. 135; 145
Evening: Pss. 97; 112
Gen. 8:6–22
Heb. 4:14–5:6
John 2:23–3:15

Tuesday, January 21
Morning: Pss. 123; 146
Evening: Pss. 30; 86
Gen. 9:1–17
Heb. 5:7–14
John 3:16–21

Wednesday, January 22
Morning: Pss. 15; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 48; 4
Gen. 9:18–29
Heb. 6:1–12
John 3:22–36

Thursday, January 23
Morning: Pss. 36; 147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 80; 27
Gen. 11:1–9
Heb. 6:13–20
John 4:1–15

Friday, January 24
Morning: Pss. 130; 148
Evening: Pss. 32; 139
Gen. 11:27–12:8
Heb. 7:1–17
John 4:16–26

Saturday, January 25
Morning: Pss. 56; 149
Evening: Pss. 118; 111
Gen. 12:9–13:1
Heb. 7:18–28
John 4:27–42

Sunday, January 26
Morning: Pss. 67; 150
Evening: Pss. 46; 93
Gen. 13:2–18
Gal. 2:1–10
Mark 7:31–37

Monday, January 27
Morning: Pss. 57; 145
Evening: Pss. 85; 47
Gen. 14:(1–7) 8–24
Heb. 8:1–13
John 4:43–54

Tuesday, January 28
Morning: Pss. 54; 146
Evening: Pss. 28; 99
Gen. 15:1–11, 17–21
Heb. 9:1–14
John 5:1–18

Wednesday, January 29
Morning: Pss. 65; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 125; 91
Gen. 16:1–14
Heb. 9:15–28
John 5:19–29

Thursday, January 30
Morning: Pss. 143;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 81; 1:16
Gen. 16:15–17:14
Heb. 10:1–10
John 5:30–47

Friday, January 31
Morning: Pss. 88; 148
Evening: Pss. 6; 20
Gen. 17:15–27
Heb. 10:11–25
John 6:1–15



Classy Lassies and Grazers

The Classy Lassies and Grazers will meet on Wednesday, January 29. Please gather at 11:30 in the church lounge. Those attending will decide together where to go for lunch that day. All are invited!

JANUARY Birthdays

- 3 Joan Nystrom
- 3 Tom Roe
- 16 Pat Ross
- 22 Pastor Mike Beckman
- 26 Walter Jennings
- 27 Jim Troutman
- 28 Lorraine Scott

Frank Decker died December 27.
Frank is the husband of Geraldine Decker.



SHH! SUCCESS

Shh! (Santa Helps High-Schoolers): This year we partnered with Bridget Jarvis at the Wayne Westland Community School District Family Resource Center to make the Christmas holiday brighter for local teenagers, and the results are in! We filled 32 gift bags, contributed \$500 for the more substantial gifts and have also given \$150 in food gift cards for children who are either homeless or in need. Across the program, 56 children in the school will have a much brighter Christmas thanks to you and those like you who contributed so generously. Thank you so much!!!



Financial Report as of 11/30/2019

	November	Year to Date	Budget
Income	9,676	115,269	107,268
Expenses	9,095	109,335	112,387
Net Income or	581	5,934	-5,119
Liquid Assets*	98,929	98,929	

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

November was more or less break even. 2019 per capita will be paid by year end. Checking account was reduced temporarily due to use of capital funds expenses. The account returned to normal on December 1 with a transfer from savings and the first collection of the month. However, we will likely have some more transfers as well as sales of mutual fund gains in the coming year.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR
FINANCIAL
SUPPORT

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Friday, January 17

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!



The 2020 Offering Envelopes are available in the lounge.

PER CAPITA 2020

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



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

Chairman and Elder

Cindy Handford (2022) Elder

Lynn King (2020) Deacon

Sharon Garcia (2020) Deacon

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Dorothy Albright, (2020) Chairman and Elder

Peggy Flacks (2022) Deacon

MISSION/OUTREACH

Judy Curtis (2021) Chairman and Elder

Nancy Pride (2020), Elder

Bill Partaka (2021) Deacon

Andrea Alicea (2022) Deacon

FOUNDATION

Jenny Root (2022) Chairman and Elder

Patrick Frobe (2020) Elder

Rob Otte (2020) Deacon

Judy Walker (2021) Deacon and Deacon Moderator

TREASURER: Fred Kirk

CLERK: Jenny Root

A publication for the family and friends of
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