

THE KIRK KONNECTION

Editor: Carolyn Marnon

November 2017

I have a son!

This was my immediate thought at 1:39 a.m. on September 9, 2017. This was my reaction when, in the dark of night, Theodore Charles Beckman was born. He was red, gooey and had a cone shaped head but in that moment I could only see a beautiful baby boy. *My boy. I have a son!*

I wonder if this was what God thought when Jesus was born on earth. “He’s beautiful!! He’s finally here!! I love him so much already. I have a *son!*”

Did life change for God in that moment? When Jesus was very still, did God worry whether or not he was still breathing? When Jesus was crying, did God think, “Oh, my son! Are you alright?? Are you sick? Are you hungry? Are you in pain?”

I wonder if, in mere minutes, God fast-forwarded through Jesus’ life, wondering if he would be tall or short or an athlete or a carpenter or if he would be good at making friends. Would he adjust to life with Mary and Joseph, and with his community? Would he be loved? Would he be happy? Would he be safe, or would people hurt him?

We know that God is all-knowing. Therefore we can assume that God knew the answers to these questions.

God knew people would hurt Jesus. God knew that the world would kill the only son God ever had. Do we believe that knowing this, and knowing that it was “God’s plan,” made it easier for God to watch Jesus suffer?

I think deep down we do believe this. I think that, no matter what the Bible might say about God having actual emotion, we still see God as a supreme being to whom we simply can never relate. Yes, I said to *whom* – not to *what*. And that lengthens the chasm that exists between God and us. Despite the fact that we were created in God’s own image, we see ourselves as so distinctly different from God that we might as well be apples and oranges. Nay, apples and cement trucks. Nay, apples and fidget spinners.you get the idea.

This is a crying shame, because in childbirth – much like any occasion of joy or suffering that we experience in our lifetimes – we are gifted with an opportunity to draw nearer to God. When Theo was born, I was not only blessed with a second chance in my life to see the world through innocent eyes that will be experiencing everything for the first time. I was also given the gift of a shared experience with God: the pivotal life event that is the birth of a child.

Before my son was born I had an academic understanding of what it was like to experience the love and the concern of a mother or a father for their child. But the moment I gazed into Theo’s eyes for the first time, my entire being was flooded with a new set of heightened emotions that nearly caused me to burst with love, worry, fear, apprehension or joy from one moment to the next. I had no idea that it would be like this. And, now that I have felt these things – and feel them on a regular basis – I believe I can relate to those who have children in a way that I never could before.

...and that includes God. Today I have a whole new picture of what God might have been feeling as Jesus was born, as he lived, and as he suffered and then died. It has long tied my stomach into knots when I’ve pondered the suffering of Jesus, but now I view the sacrifice of Christ and what God may have been experiencing in a whole new light. The thought of anything like that happening to my *own* son causes the innermost recesses of my soul to shriek in a horror that I cannot even articulate. If my heart could cry, the resulting collection of tears would rival that of the Pacific Ocean.

And God lived this nightmare, and lived it for us. When Theo was born, I was gifted with more than the shared experience of childbirth with God. I was also granted a profoundly deeper appreciation for and understanding of God’s love for *me* in the gift of God’s own son. I love my son more than I can say; I am absolutely *confounded* at the possibility that someone could love me even more than I love my son. I have never doubted God’s love for me, but my eyes have been opened to a whole new depth of this love. This love

is seemingly boundless, and I therefore feel closer to God now than ever before.

God is someone – *someone*, not *something* – who has an amazing love for us. God is someone that had a child, as many of us has or have had. Knowing that we have this in common, our creator should be more approachable to us. Thanks to Jesus, we have the access; God is only so far away as we push God. God knows us better than anyone else does and loves us more than anyone ever could. Does this not sound like the ideal best friend? Why do we not take advantage of this? Why do we keep God at arm's length?

I am seizing this opportunity not only to thank God for my son Theo and for God's son Jesus, but also to grow in my relationship with God. When we see God as more approachable, we trust God more. We pray more. We listen for God's response more. The more we see God as a loving parent and best friend, the likelier we are to seek God in prayer. And the more often we're in prayer, the richer our lives will be.

Pastor Mike





This year we are joining with Girl Scout Troop 71137 to participate in Operation Christmas Child's shoebox ministry. 30 plastic shoeboxes were available for church members to take home and fill with small toys and hygiene items that a child could use. The shoeboxes will be taken to a drop-off location where they can be whisked around the world to children in need.

There are still some boxes available that need filling. You can pick one up at the church. All shoeboxes need to be returned by **November 19**.

If you would like more information, visit the website: <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/#>



NOVEMBER 5

Please attend worship on Consecration Sunday and then join us for lunch in the Fellowship Hall.



KEEP
CALM
AND
LET'S HAVE
LUNCH

November 29

Join Classy Lassies and Grazers as they meet at 11:30am in the church lobby before going out to lunch.

All are invited! This means you! The men and women of the church meet on the last Wednesday of every month for fun and fellowship. You are invited to come too! After meeting in the lounge, the groups each decide where they will go locally for lunch.



- 4 Cathy Troutman
- 13 John Rose
- 19 Leslie Holland
- 24 Rob Otte
- 25 Tom Forgacs
- 27 Audrey Conner
- 29 Al Tedd

DON'T SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF

Thank you to everyone who donated to our annual mission project. Many packages of socks and underwear as well as sweatpants were donated to this worthwhile cause we support in the Wayne/Westland schools.



We celebrated Margaret Rose's 104th birthday after worship on October 15. Margaret's birthday is October 25. Her son, John Rose, and her daughter, Judi (Rose) Rollin, were both here to celebrate this milestone in Margaret's life. Shown with Margaret are John, Judi and Judi's husband, Tom.

Margaret would like to thank everyone for the cards, calls, visits and gifts. She loves you all!



SUNDAY SCHOOL

What's missing? 'U'! We need you to help us build a bulletin board display, play games, and paint while we learn about God's Law and what it means for us. Won't you join us on Sunday mornings at 10:30 - it isn't the same without you.

The lessons for November will be about giving thanks. We will be building a bulletin board display. Come join us!



SEWING DAY!

Join us on Saturday, November 4 from 10am-2pm as we sew pillowcase dresses for African girls. We need pillowcases, 1/4 inch elastic and 1/2 inch

cotton binding. For more information, please see Judy Curtis or call her (734) 595-6011. Lunch will be provided.

WARM THE CHILDREN

The outreach committee is seeking donations of warm hats, gloves/mittens, coats and boots to give to children who need them in the local school district.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Madeline Carpenter (2018), Chairman and Elder

Bonnie Hilberer (2019) Elder

Irene Gaylord (2020) Deacon

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Mark Gallaher, Chairman and Elder

Cindy Handford (2019) Deacon

Lynn King (2020) Deacon

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Dorothy Albright, (2020) Chairman and Elder

June Jennings (2018) Deacon

MISSION/OUTREACH

Judy Curtis (2018) Chairman and Elder

Nancy Pride (2020), Elder

Lorraine Scott (2019) Deacon

Audrey Conner (2019) Deacon

FOUNDATION

Leslie Holland (2019) Chairman and Elder

Patrick Frobe (2020) Elder

John Jennings (2018) Deacon

Rob Otte (2020) Deacon

TREASURER: Fred Kirk

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November 2017 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.

Wednesday, November 1 **All Saints' Day**

Morning: Pss. 96; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 132; 134
Isa. 26:1–4, 8–9, 12–13, 19–21
Rev. 21:9–11, 22–27
(22:1–5) or Heb. 11:32–12:2
Matt. 5:1–12

Thursday, November 2

Morning: Pss. 116;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 26; 130
Neh. 1:1–11 or Lam. 2:16–22
Rev. 5:11–6:11
Matt. 13:18–23

Friday, November 3

Morning: Pss. 84; 148
Evening: Pss. 25; 40
Neh. 2:1–20 or Lam. 4:1–22
Rev. 6:12–7:4
Matt. 13:24–30

Saturday, November 4

Morning: Pss. 63; 149
Evening: Pss. 125; 90
Neh. 4:1–23 or Lam. 5:1–22
Rev. 7:(4–8) 9–17
Matt. 13:31–35

Sunday, November 5 **22nd Sunday after** **Pentecost**

Morning: Pss. 103; 150
Evening: Pss. 117; 139
Neh. 5:1–9 or Ezra 1:1–11
Acts 20:7–12
Luke 12:22–31

Monday, November 6

Morning: Pss. 5; 145
Evening: Pss. 82; 29
Neh. 6:1–19 or Ezra 3:1–13
Rev. 10:1–11
Matt. 13:36–43

Tuesday, November 7

Morning: Pss. 42; 146
Evening: Pss. 102; 133
Neh. 12:27–31a, 42b–47
or Ezra 4:7, 11–24
Rev. 11:1–19
Matt. 13:44–52

Wednesday, November 8

Morning: Pss. 89:1–18;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 1; 33
Neh. 13:4–22
or Hag. 1:1–2:9
Rev. 12:1–12
Matt. 13:53–58

Thursday, November 9

Morning: Pss. 97; 147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 16; 62
Ezra 7:(1–10) 11–26
or Zech. 1:7–17
Rev. 14:1–13
Matt. 14:1–12

Friday, November 10

Morning: Pss. 51; 148
Evening: Pss. 142; 65
Ezra 7:27–28; 8:21–36
or Ezra 5:1–17
Rev. 15:1–8
Matt. 14:13–21

Saturday, November 11

Morning: Pss. 104; 149
Evening: Pss. 138; 98
Ezra 9:1–15 or Ezra 6:1–22
Rev. 17:1–14
Matt. 14:22–36

Sunday, November 12

23rd Sunday after
Pentecost
Morning: Pss. 19; 150
Evening: Pss. 81; 113
Ezra 10:1–17 or Neh. 1:1–11
Acts 24:10–21
Luke 14:12–24

Monday, November 13

Morning: Pss. 135; 145
Evening: Pss. 97; 112
Neh. 9:1–15 (16–25)
or Neh. 2:1–20
Rev. 18:1–8
Matt. 15:1–20

Tuesday, November 14

Morning: Pss. 123; 146
Evening: Pss. 30; 86
Neh. 9:26–38 or Neh. 4:1–23
Rev. 18:9–20
Matt. 15:21–28

Wednesday, November 15

Morning: Pss. 15; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 48; 4
Neh. 7:73b–8:3, 5–18
or Neh. 5:1–19
Rev. 18:21–24
Matt. 15:29–39

Thursday, November 16

Morning: Pss. 36; 147:12–20
 Evening: Pss. 80; 27
 Neh. 6:1–19
 Rev. 19:1–10
 Matt. 16:1–12

Friday, November 17

Morning: Pss. 130; 148
 Evening: Pss. 32; 139
 Neh. 12:27–31a, 42b–47
 Rev. 19:11–16
 Matt. 16:13–20

Saturday, November 18

Morning: Pss. 56; 149
 Evening: Pss. 118; 111
 Neh. 13:4–22
 Rev. 20:1–6
 Matt. 16:21–28

Sunday, November 19**24th Sunday after Pentecost**

Morning: Pss. 67; 150
 Evening: Pss. 46; 93
 Ezra 7:(1–10) 11–26
 Acts 28:14b–23
 Luke 16:1–13

Monday, November 20

Morning: Pss. 57; 145
 Evening: Pss. 85; 47
 Ezra 7:27–28; 8:21–36
 Rev. 20:7–15
 Matt. 17:1–13

Tuesday, November 21

Morning: Pss. 54; 146
 Evening: Pss. 28; 99
 Ezra 9:1–15
 Rev. 21:1–8
 Matt. 17:14–21

Wednesday, November 22

Morning: Pss. 65; 147:1–11
 Evening: Pss. 125; 91
 Ezra 10:1–17
 Rev. 21:9–21
 Matt. 17:22–27

Thursday, November 23

Morning: Pss. 143;
 147:12–20
 Evening: Pss. 81; 116
 Neh. 9:1–15 (16–25)
 Rev. 21:22–22:5
 Matt. 18:1–9

Friday, November 24

Morning: Pss. 88; 148
 Evening: Pss. 6; 20
 Neh. 9:26–38
 Rev. 22:6–13
 Matt. 18:10–20

Saturday, November 25

Morning: Pss. 122; 149
 Evening: Pss. 100; 63
 Neh. 7:73b–8:3, 5–18
 Rev. 22:14–21
 Matt. 18:21–35

Sunday, November 26**Christ the King / Reign of Christ**

Morning: Pss. 108; 150
 Evening: Pss. 66; 23
 Isa. 19:19–25
 Rom. 15:5–13
 Luke 19:11–27

Monday, November 27

Morning: Pss. 62; 145
 Evening: Pss. 73; 9
 Joel 3:1–2, 9–17
 1 Peter 1:1–12
 Matt. 19:1–12

Tuesday, November 28

Morning: Pss. 12; 146
 Evening: Pss. 36; 7
 Nahum 1:1–13
 1 Peter 1:13–25
 Matt. 19:13–22

Wednesday, November 29

Morning: Pss. 96; 147:1–11
 Evening: Pss. 132; 134
 Obad. 15–21
 1 Peter 2:1–10
 Matt. 19:23–30

Thursday, November 30

Morning: Pss. 116;
 147:12–20
 Evening: Pss. 26; 130
 Zeph. 3:1–13
 1 Peter 2:11–25
 Matt. 20:1–16

November 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 7-9 pm WCCP Maintenance Fellowship Hall	3 7:45-9:30pm Alanon	4 9:30am-Choir Rehearsal 10am-2pm Sewing Day- Fellowship Hall
5 Consecration Sunday	6 7:30-9pm BiPolar Depression Support Group	7 7-9pm WCCP Maintenance Fellowship 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus	8	9	10 7:45-9:30pm Alanon	11 9:30am-Choir Rehearsal
12 Communion Session	13 7:30-9pm BiPolar Depression Support Group 6:30-8:30pm Hope for Healing Hearts	14 6:30-8pm Girl Scouts 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus	15	16 9am-Noon WCCP 3 Yr. Thanksgiving Party - Fellowship Hall	17 9am-Noon WCCP 4Yr. Thanksgiving Party - Fellowship Hall 7:45-9:30pm Alanon	18 9am- Presby Meeting 9:30am-Choir Rehearsal
19	20 7:30-9pm BiPolar Depression Support Group	21 7-9pm WCCP Maintenance Fellowship 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus	22	23 Office Closed	24 7:45-9:30pm Alanon	25 9:30am-Choir Rehearsal
26 Christ the King Communion Deacons	27 7:30-9pm BiPolar Depression Support Group 6:30-8:30pm Hope for Healing Hearts	28 6:30-8pm Girl Scouts 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus	29 11:30am Classy Lassies and Grazers Lunch	30		

One thing I love about the Kirk is Lynn King's hats.

If my life was a book, the title would be "How much can this guy eat!?" "

One of my favorite quotes is: As a writer of sermons I have a million of them; I wish I could give ten. In this moment, though, let's go with "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." - Maya Angelou

I started coming to the KIRK because the people were so welcoming (and still are). With a group of people that cares so deeply for one another it's hard not to feel at home.

A story that my family always tell about me is: When I was a teenager I had to put a fork into a toaster to dislodge something. As the story goes, the toaster was not plugged in but for some reason I was still nervous about putting the fork into said toaster. Over the years the tale has morphed into a much more simplistic version: "Mike doesn't know how to use a toaster." My mother has called me "Toaster Boy" since this event.

I find a lot of joy in: I find a lot of joy in nature, my son, my Kirk family, Lynn King's hats. :)

KONNECTING with....

Pastor Mike Beckman

I love the sound of: too many to list, all nature. The soft pitter-patter of rain falling on leaves of trees and the sound of the ocean are probably the top 2.



I've been the pastor at the Kirk for two years.

My hobbies and interests are: baseball (all sports really), walking in parks, music, reading.

I live in Saline, MI.

My favorite season, hands down, is Fall. The changing of the colors is mesmerizing and the crisp, cool air is intoxicating.

I believe I was named after my mom's Uncle Mike

Name 3 things on your "bucket list"

Grow every day in my relationship with God.

Raise my son Theo to the best of my ability, sharing life with him and his mother.

Go to Disney World.

In what ways have you tried to serve God, the church and others?I thought being a pastor was probably a good way to do this. :) In all seriousness, my ministry is one that centers around authenticity, simplicity and love. While I was a chaplain I had a lot of practice in just providing comfort; my job was not to spout doctrinal theology. Simply providing this comfort, I found, did the job of revealing God's love to so many that hadn't seen it before. This was a wonderful lesson.

There has never truly been a time during which I did not believe God was at work in my life. However, throughout my journey from the moment I felt a call to ministry to this very moment I have felt a considerably stronger presence of God; nothing in this journey has gone the way I thought it would, but I wouldn't change any of it. I've seen the wisdom of God at every juncture and been humbled in every instance (something that Toaster Boy probably needed).

September 30, 2017 Report



Session Meeting – October 8, 2017

September Collections - Revenues = \$ 9,880

September Expenses = \$ 7,841

September Net Income = \$ 2,039

YTD Net Income = \$ 11,320

Reserve Funds = \$16,790

Checking Account - Down= \$ (1,568)

Checking Account Balance September 31, 2017 = **\$15,222**

Other Assets: Savings Account w/.09 Int. = **\$ 11,519**

Mutual Funds Thru September 31, 2017 = **\$76,062**

Thank God 4 Christian Parents Fund Balance = **\$336,740**

Includes Monthly Gain of \$478 & YTD Gain of \$5,594

Total 2017 Per Capita Obligation = **\$1,711.00**

YTD Collected = \$ 1,173.00

YTD Paid = \$ 1,140.00

Per Capita Balance Owed = **\$ 571.00**

Per Capita Account Balance = **\$ 33.00**

September was another up month in a four month period of up and then down. We had significantly below average expenses for the month and slightly above budget income. September income benefited from WCCP rents again beginning for the school year. YTD investment gains are very strong at nearly \$5,600 which is over 2.5 times original budget expectations. We did also use capital funds totaling \$2,065 in the month for cushion reupholstery, painting, and partial concrete payments. Outside of the painting we had new capital donations that offset these expenditures. No change was noted in the Middelburg check.



ANNUAL

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Saturday, December 2

3pm Pasta Lunch

4pm Cantata

Lunch will be served in the Fellowship Hall. The Cantata will be in the Sanctuary. All are invited! Bring your family and friends. You can even come alone! We'd love for you to have a heart-warming afternoon with us.

We are currently looking for voices for our performance. We need speaking voices as well as singing voices. If you feel you can't sing, but know you can speak, we could have a part for you!

Contact Mark Handford for more information.

December 16 we will be performing the Cantata at St. Timothy's in Livonia. If you can't join us here, please join us there.

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.