

THE KIRK KONNECTION

Editor: Carolyn Marnon

December 2019

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."



According to Jeremiah, God has spoken concerning the covenant with God's people, and wanted to remind them that God had not forgotten the covenant.

This passage is dated back to the postexilic period of the history of God's chosen people. During this time they would have sorely needed the word from Jeremiah, letting them know that God was still moving and active, that God still loved them, and wouldn't neglect to fulfill the promises that had been made. God wanted the people to keep the faith and to trust in *God's* timing for their lives.

That's definitely something that should resonate with us today. Jeremiah was speaking to the ancient people of Israel and Judah, who were waiting for the Savior to come. *We* hear those same words, and we, too, are waiting for the Savior to come (again).

In the years between, millions of events have taken place that have changed the face of the world. Yet both we and those to whom Jeremiah spoke are/were in need of the same thing: faith in God to provide for our salvation.

God was faithful to our ancestors, and God is faithful to us today: Christ will come again.

Those in exile weren't too thrilled. God seemed distant, life was unpleasant, "salvation" was nowhere to be found. But Jeremiah was telling them that they should take heart because God had not forgotten them. They, however – like us – were only human, and found it difficult to envision a different kind of future. It wasn't easy to trust that something better was on the horizon.

Their faith was faltering.

In Our Greatest Gift, Henri Nouwen tells a parable of faith and hope by imagining twins – a brother and a sister – talking to each other in their mother's womb.

The sister says to the brother, "I believe there is life after birth."

Her brother strongly objects, "No, no, this is all there is. This is a dark and cozy place, and we have nothing else to do but to cling to the cord that feeds us."

But his sister isn't swayed and insists, "There *must* be something more than this dark place. There has to be something else, a place with light where there is freedom to move."

Still, she could not convince her twin brother.

After some silence, she said hesitantly, "I have something else to say, and I'm afraid you won't believe that, either, but I think there is a mother."

This infuriated her brother.

"A *mother*?!" he shouted. "What are you talking about? I have never seen a mother, and neither have you. Who put that idea in your head? As I told you, *this* place is all we have. Why do you always want more? This is not such a bad place, after all. We have all we need, so let's be content."

Well, the sister was quite overwhelmed by her brother's response and for a time didn't dare say a word.

But she couldn't let go of her thoughts, and since she had only her twin brother to speak to, she finally said,

"Don't you feel these *squeezes* every once in a while? They're quite unpleasant and sometimes even painful."

"Yes," he answered. "But what's special about that?"

"Well," the sister said, "I think that these squeezes are there to get us ready for *another* place, much more beautiful than this, where we will see our mother face-to-face. Don't you think that's exciting?"

The brother didn't answer.

He was fed up with the foolish talk of his sister and felt that the best thing would be simply to ignore her and hope that she would leave him alone.

The chosen people were being "squeezed" by the contractions of a painful life in exile, and they had no faith that things would ever change for them.

They were like the twin brother in our story: pessimistic and not wanting to talk about what they felt they were powerless to change.

The twin sister, on the other hand, was the "Jeremiah": squarely in the middle of the reality of the present but interpreting the signs around her and the feelings she had as more than just "nothing" or mere coincidence.

That interpretation led her to a faith in a different kind of future...faith that there would be a mother they would see face-to-face and faith that a bright and glorious life awaited them after they were made ready by those painful squeezes.

It's funny how similar our lives today are to God's chosen people that we read about in Scripture. And it's interesting how we can probably see ourselves in *both* of the unborn twins.

Sometimes we may find it difficult to see a brighter future in which there is a God that we'll see face-to-face. It's tough to believe that the pain and struggle of the present time might be preparing us or molding us for something better.

I can understand having feelings like that, given that I, too, live in this world that is hurting so deeply.

And yet I was just telling my mother in law on Saturday morning how I can't imagine what it would be like to walk through this life without faith in God's promises that we will spend eternity with the Lord.

I can't imagine living without the hope that this life is NOT all that there is.

I can't imagine enduring all of this "squeezing" and thinking that there is no redemptive purpose to any of our pain.

We are in the midst of the first week of Advent: a time of preparation, a time of waiting, a time of watching, a time of *hope*. We will spend these weeks remembering the promises of old, celebrating the answers to prayer, and placing our confidence for the future in God's hands. It's our *faith* that brings us here, our *faith* that sustains us, and our *faith* that will direct us along the path that culminates in our final destination with God.

In the Disney animated classic based upon Lewis Carroll's "Alice in Wonderland," Alice wanders through a frustrating world of tardy rabbits, singing flowers, and one curious-talking cat.

Her visit with the cat begins as she continues down a mysterious darkened trail and stops at a large tree.

The tree is covered with signs that point in every possible direction: "Up," "Down," "Yonder," "Back," "This Way," and "That Way."

Poor Alice looks more confused than ever and asks herself, "Now let's see. Where was I? I wonder which way I ought to go?"

Just then, she hears a melodic voice that seems to be drifting down from the trees.

She looks all around and finally observes two ghostly eyes and a wide toothy grin floating amongst the boughs of the great tree.

The grinning teeth inquire of Alice, "Lose something?"

"N-n-no, I was just..." stammers Alice in reply.

Suddenly, a pink striped feline body emerges from the branches.

"Oh, you're a cat!"

"A *Cheshire* cat," he responds.

"I just want to ask which way I ought to go," asks Alice.

"Well that depends on where you want to get to," says the cat.

"Well, it really doesn't matter," answers Alice.

"Then it really doesn't matter which way you go," says the enigmatic cat just before vanishing into the woods again.

(preachingtoday.com)

If you have no goal in sight, it probably doesn't matter which way you go.

But that should never be the case for a Christian.

As we begin our Advent journey, I want to be focused on Bethlehem and the manger and the birth of the Messiah. I want to walk once more through the story we love so well, seeing what fresh truth I might find this year for my life. That walk can admittedly be difficult to navigate in such a commercialized Christmas season.

And so as I make that trek – as I cling to my faith and look forward each week to lighting another candle – I will keep my eyes out for each and every reminder that the gift of salvation is on the way.

I plan to take my son out to see the beautiful Christmas lights that foster imagination and out of which fantastic dreams are born. I want him to have the same sense of wonder that I had as a boy when those lights flooded my own vision. And I pray that he, too, as he is raised to know exactly who the Messiah was and is, will have a sense of awe and gratitude when we arrive at the brightly lit nativity scene and our eyes linger upon the baby in the manger.

Pastor Mike





Elder Madeline Carpenter
recently retired from Meals on Wheels
after 45 years.

Margaret Rose, a founding member of Kirk of Our Savior in June, 1960 (member 103 by the names listed in membership records alphabetically) died Wednesday, November 27, just one month after celebrating her 106th birthday. Margaret's presence at Sunday worship will be missed. Prayers go out to her family and friends.

Margaret's funeral will be at the Kirk on Saturday, December 7 at 10am with burial to follow at Cadillac Memorial Gardens on Ford Rd. There will be a procession.
Visitation is at Vermeulen Funeral Home
980 N. Newburgh Rd, Westland
Thursday, December 4: 2pm-8pm
Friday, December 5: 1pm-8pm



Merry Christmas!



FILL A BAG FOR A TEEN

We are partnering with Bridget Jarvis at the Wayne Westland Community School District Family Resource Center to make the Christmas holiday brighter for local teenagers. Through the Shhh! Program, we had 28 bags to fill with stocking stuffers. All bags were spoken for before Thanksgiving. Thank you to all those who took a bag (or more). The students we are helping are either homeless or in need. A suggestion list was included with each bag, but it will be up to you what you want to put in the bag. The bags will need to be returned to Judy Curtis by December 15.



The Mitten Tree is back this holiday season for interested parties to fill with gloves, mittens, hats and scarves.

SUNDAY SCHOOL INFO

We are offering 2 Sunday School classes this year: one for readers and one for non-readers. Both classes will be filled with lessons, activities, crafts and even a few outreach/mission projects. Children go downstairs to the Fellowship Hall after the Moment with Children chat with Pastor Mike in worship.

MISSION/OUTREACH

CROP WALK UPDATE: 12 churches participated this year with 144 walkers. \$7419 was raised with online donations for a grand total of \$18,921 raised by the walkers. This is 10% MORE than was raised last year. Thank you to our Kirk walkers and all who donated.

DAYS FOR GIRLS: The Kirk donated \$300 to Days for Girls to assist the local Days for Girls team in shopping for fabric during the Black Friday sales. Over 10,000 kits have been made and distributed around the world. Days for Girls believes all women deserve reliable feminine hygiene protection enabling them to attend school and/or work. The reusable feminine hygiene kits last up to 3 years and are a solution in many parts of the world where disposal of sanitary products is not practical.

CONSECRATION SUNDAY RESULTS

As of November 22, the sum of Consecration Sunday Giving Estimates was \$93,964. When added to anticipated estimates from several members not in attendance the grand total increases to \$102,689. This amount is about \$3,800 less than the amount estimated for 2018. While the Kirk did see a number of pledge units increase their Giving Estimates for next year, we lost two significant units of contribution due to illness and relocation. Nevertheless, the Consecration Sunday program again proved effective in ensuring that the spirit of our giving – time, talents and resources – remains consistent with the direction God provides. While we acknowledge the fact that many of us are getting older, we also recognize that only means that the landscape shifts: our time, talents and resources change as our lives change. The Kirk's membership has staved off much direr times, and we are blessed to be in a sounder financial situation than previous. God has more mission and ministry in store for our devoted church family, and our faithful community is equal to the task.

Thank you for all that you are and all that you do!



ADVENT 1

December 1 10:30am

ADVENT 2

December 8 10:30am

ADVENT 3

December 15 10:30am

ADVENT 4

December 22 10:30am

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24 6:00pm



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Please join us on December 24, Christmas Eve for our annual Christmas Eve worship service at 6:00 pm.

All are invited. Bring your family and friends as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.



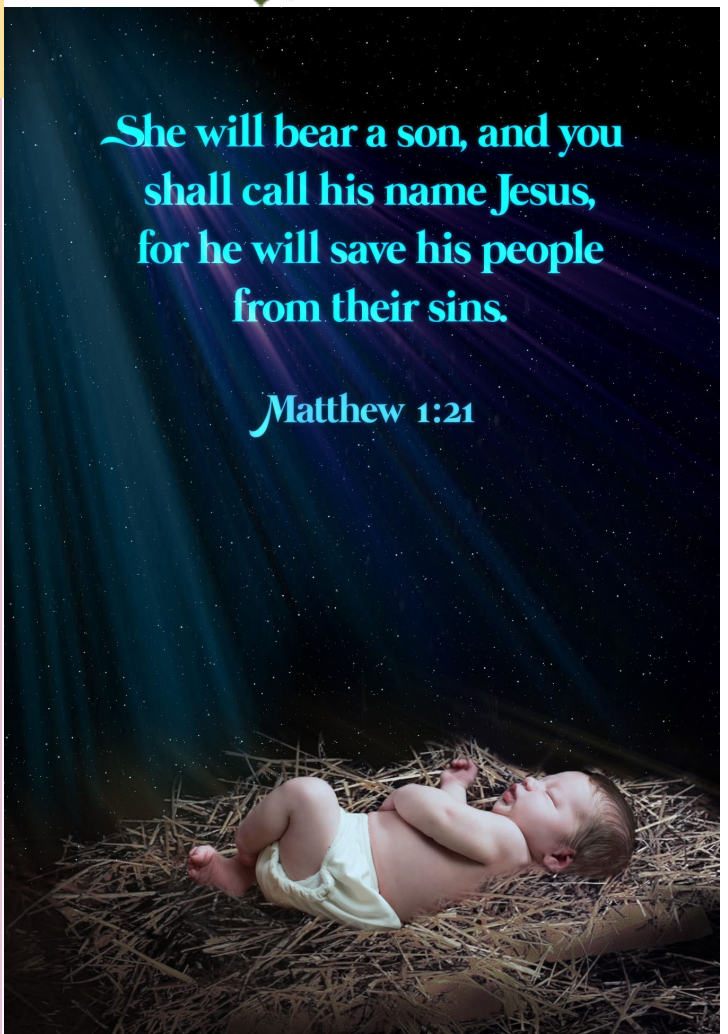
CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

It's Poinsettia time! We will be doing poinsettias again this year to decorate the altar for Christmas. The suggested donation is \$10 per plant. We have envelopes available for you to use for your order. We will be taking orders up until Sunday, December 15. Start planning now how many you might want to donate towards and how you would like the plants dedicated, so you will be ready to place your order. You will be able to take home your poinsettia(s) after the Christmas Eve worship on December 24.



**She will bear a son, and you
shall call his name Jesus,
for he will save his people
from their sins.**

Matthew 1:21



December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30am-Worship in Sanctuary	2 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group Lounge	3 6-8pm-Girl Scouts-Lounge 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus-Fellowship Hall	4	5 7-9pm Harmony Town Board Meeting-Lounge	6 7:45-9:30pm Alanon-Lounge	7 9:30am-Choir Practice 10am-Margaret Rose Funeral
8 10:30am-Worship in Sanctuary Session-Fellowship	9 6:30-8:30pm Hope 4 Healing Hearts-Fellowship Hall 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group Lounge	10 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus-Fellowship Hall	11	12	13 6-8:30pm WCCP Milk & Cookies w/Santa-Fellowship Hall 7:45-9:30pm Alanon-Lounge	14 9:30am-Choir Practice 5:30-9pm-Fellowship reserved
15 10:30am-Worship in Sanctuary	16 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group Lounge	17 6-8pm-Girl Scouts-Lounge 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus-Fellowship Hall	18	19	20 No Family Fun Night in December 7:45-9:30pm Alanon-Lounge	21 9:30am-Choir Practice
22 10:30am-Worship in Sanctuary Deacons-Sanctuary 12:30-6pm-Fellowship/Kitchen-Reserved	23 6:30-8:30pm Hope 4 Healing Hearts-Fellowship Hall 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group Lounge	24 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus-Fellowship Hall 6pm Christmas Eve Worship	25 11:30 am Classy Lassies and Grazers Lunch	26	27 7:45-9:30pm Alanon-Lounge	28 9:30am-Choir Practice
29 10:30am-Worship in Sanctuary	30 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group Lounge	31 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus-Fellowship Hall				



Saturday rehearsals are at 9:30am.

Sunday rehearsals are at 9:15am.

If you would like to join the choir, please see Mark Handford.

Don't Sweat the Small Stuff

has returned for another season. We are accepting donations of sweatpants (boys and girls sizes 6-12), underwear and socks for the Wayne-Westland Community School District's Family Resource Center. These items are given to the 13 elementary schools to be handed out when a child needs a change of clothing whether it be from an applesauce package exploding on them at lunch, to falling into a mud puddle at recess or any other accident that can happen during the school day. There will be a marked bin for donations. Thank you for your continued support in this annual outreach mission.



1	Pat Gallaher
7	Bob Gates
22	Christine Davison
28	Pat Higgins
29	Georgeen Kirk



Classy Lassies and Grazers

Classy Lassies and Grazers will not meet for lunch in December as the last Wednesday of the month falls on Christmas Day. The next gathering will be on January 29, 2020.



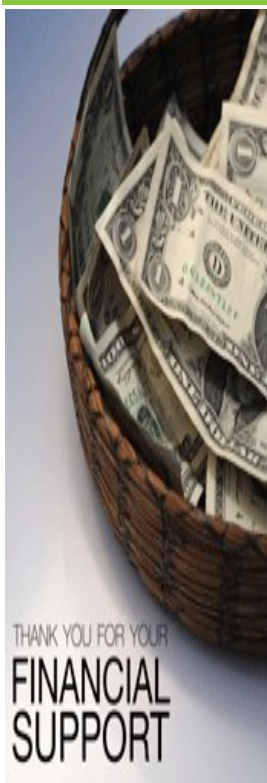
Financial Report as of 10/31/2019

	October	Year to Date	Budget
Income	9,662	105,593	97,517
Expenses	11,278	100,239	102,170
Net Income or	-1,616	5,354	-4,653
Liquid Assets*	99,971	99,971	

* equals the total for Kirk checking, savings, and mutual funds.

Does not include Thank God 4 Christian Parents Fund.

October was negatively impacted as expected by having 3 pay periods in the month. The loss experienced is approximately \$800 short of one pay period expense. With some anticipated larger capital expenses in the near future it is likely that the checking account will be bolstered with draw downs from either savings or Kirk Mutual Funds or both.



FAMILY FUN NIGHT
THANKSGIVING POTLUCK
NOVEMBER 15, 2019



December 2019 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.

Begin Year 2

DECEMBER

Sunday, December 1 1st Sunday of Advent

Morning: Pss. 24; 150
Evening: Pss. 25; 110
Amos 1:1–5, 13–2:8
1 Thess. 5:1–11
Luke 21:5–19

Monday, December 2

Morning: Pss. 122; 145
Evening: Pss. 40; 67
Amos 2:6–16
2 Peter 1:1–11
Matt. 21:1–11

Tuesday, December 3

Morning: Pss. 33; 146
Evening: Pss. 85; 94
Amos 3:1–11
2 Peter 1:12–21
Matt. 21:12–22

Wednesday, December 4

Morning: Pss. 50; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 53; 17
Amos 3:12–4:5
2 Peter 3:1–10
Matt. 21:23–32

Thursday, December 5

Morning: Pss. 18:1–20;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 126; 62
Amos 4:6–13
2 Peter 3:11–18
Matt. 21:33–46

Friday, December 6

Morning: Pss. 102; 148
Evening: Pss. 130; 16
Amos 5:1–17
Jude 1–16
Matt. 22:1–14

Saturday, December 7

Morning: Pss. 90; 149
Evening: Pss. 80; 72
Amos 5:18–27
Jude 17–25
Matt. 22:15–22

Sunday, December 8 2nd Sunday of Advent

Morning: Pss. 24; 150
Evening: Pss. 25; 110
Amos 6:1–14
2 Thess. 1:5–12
Luke 1:57–68

Monday, December 9

Morning: Pss. 122; 145
Evening: Pss. 40; 67
Amos 7:1–9
Rev. 1:1–8
Matt. 22:23–33

Tuesday, December 10

Morning: Pss. 33; 146
Evening: Pss. 85; 94
Amos 7:10–17
Rev. 1:9–16
Matt. 22:34–46

Wednesday, December 11

Morning: Pss. 50; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 53; 17
Amos 8:1–14
Rev. 1:17–2:7
Matt. 23:1–12

Thursday, December 12

Morning: Pss. 18:1–20;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 126; 62
Amos 9:1–10
Rev. 2:8–17
Matt. 23:13–26

Friday, December 13

Morning: Pss. 102; 148
Evening: Pss. 130; 16
Hag. 1:1–15
Rev. 2:18–29
Matt. 23:27–39

Saturday, December 14

Morning: Pss. 90; 149
Evening: Pss. 80; 72
Hag. 2:1–9
Rev. 3:1–6
Matt. 24:1–14

Sunday, December 15 3rd Sunday of Advent

Morning: Pss. 24; 150
Evening: Pss. 25; 110
Amos 9:11–15
2 Thess. 2:1–3, 13–17
John 5:30–47

Monday, December 16

Morning: Pss. 122; 145
Evening: Pss. 40; 67
Zech. 1:7–17
Rev. 3:7–13
Matt. 24:15–31

Tuesday, December 17

Morning: Pss. 33; 146
Evening: Pss. 85; 94
Zech. 2:1–13
Rev. 3:14–22
Matt. 24:32–44

Wednesday, December 18

Morning: Pss. 50; 147:1–11
 Evening: Pss. 53; 17
 Gen. 3:8–15
 Rev. 12:1–10
 John 3:16–21

Thursday, December 19

Morning: Pss. 18:1–20;
 147:12–20
 Evening: Pss. 126; 62
 Zeph. 3:14–20
 Titus 1:1–16
 Luke 1:1–25

Friday, December 20

Morning: Pss. 102; 148
 Evening: Pss. 130; 16
 1 Sam. 2:1b–10
 Titus 2:1–10
 Luke 1:26–38

Saturday, December 21

Morning: Pss. 90; 149
 Evening: Pss. 80; 72
 2 Sam. 7:1–17
 Titus 2:11–3:8a
 Luke 1:39–48a (48b–56)

**Sunday, December 22
4th Sunday of Advent**

Morning: Pss. 24; 150
 Evening: Pss. 25; 110
 2 Sam. 7:18–29
 Gal. 3:1–14
 Luke 1:57–66

Monday, December 23

Morning: Pss. 122; 145
 Evening: Pss. 40; 67
 Jer. 31:10–14
 Gal. 3:15–22
 Luke 1:67–80 or Matt. 1:1–17

Tuesday, December 24

Morning: Pss. 33; 146
 Evening: Pss. 32; 114
 Isa. 60:1–6
 Gal. 3:23–4:7
 Matt. 1:18–25

Wednesday, December 25**Nativity of Jesus Christ /
Christmas Day**

Morning: Pss. 2; 147:1–11
 Evening: Pss. 98; 96
 Micah 4:1–5; 5:2–4
 1 John 4:7–16
 John 3:31–36

Thursday, December 26

Morning: Pss. 116;
 147:12–20
 Evening: Pss. 119:1–24; 27
 2 Chron. 24:17–22
 Acts 6:1–7
 Acts 7:59–8:8

Friday, December 27

Morning: Pss. 34; 148
 Evening: Pss. 19; 121
 Prov. 8:22–30
 1 John 5:1–12
 John 13:20–35

Saturday, December 28

Morning: Pss. 2; 149
 Evening: Ps. 110; 111
 Isa. 49:31–23
 Isa. 54:1–13
 Matt. 18:1–14

**Sunday, December 29
1st Sunday after Christmas**

Morning: Pss. 96; 150
 Evening: Pss. 132; 97
 1 Sam. 1:1–2, 7b–28
 Col. 1:9–20
 Luke 2:22–40

Monday, December 30

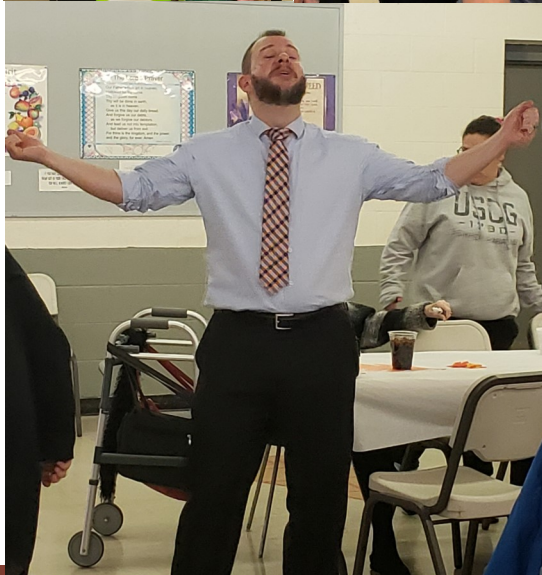
Morning: Pss. 93; 145
 Evening: Pss. 89:1–18;
 89:19–52
 1 Kings 17:17–24
 3 John 1–15
 John 4:46–54

Tuesday, December 31

Morning: Pss. 98; 146
 Evening: Pss. 45; 96
 1 Kings 3:5–14
 James 4:13–17; 5:7–11
 John 5:1–15

CONSECRATION SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 10, 2019







There will not be a Family Fun Night in December.



The 2020 Offering Envelopes will be available before year-end. If you have not returned a pledge card please do so by then or simply indicate that you want to have envelopes for next year.

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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