

THE KIRK KONNECTION

Editor: Carolyn Marnon

February 2016

It called to me from the fridge.

I had just had a glass an hour ago, but didn't my taste buds deserve the symphony of flavor that Wild Cherry Pepsi delivered every time without fail? Yes...yes, they did, I reasoned. They were good soldiers, having suffered through countless servings of beets and lima beans and peas over the years. And so, like a seasoned conductor, I twisted off the cap, tilted the bottle and poured...

Once upon a time I could not get enough soda (specifically Pepsi, and even more specifically the wild cherry variety). I drank it at home, at work, during class, at restaurants, everywhere. I knew it wasn't good for me, but I enjoyed the taste so much that it just didn't matter.

One year, as Ash Wednesday approached, I made the decision to give up soda for Lent. 46 days came and went (40 days of Lent, along with the 6 Sundays that are not included, as they are weekly celebrations of the resurrection of Christ) and I consumed no soda. Why had I done this? Well, many of my friends and family members had chosen to give something up for Lent, and I didn't want to feel left out. But why had *they* done it?

First of all, after his baptism Jesus went into the wilderness where he fasted for 40 days and was tempted by Satan. Upon completion of his period of fasting and successful resistance of temptation, Jesus emerged from the wilderness prepared and equipped to begin his ministry. This is the origin of the 40 day timeframe. Secondly, the practice of fasting in the weeks preceding Easter was employed in the early church as a method by which Christians would strengthen their spiritual awareness by emptying themselves of all things other than God. This, in turn, led to the modern tradition of giving up a perceived vice during the season of Lent.

I have always wondered why we choose to give up a practice for Lent – a practice we supposedly view as a vice – only to resume that practice the day that Lent is over. The idea behind fasting, behind giving something up, is to make ourselves as ready as possible to receive Christ on Easter Sunday. This is why we give up the things that get in the way of a closer relationship to Jesus.

When we engage in spiritual reflection, when we consider our faith, when we empty ourselves of the clutter, we will be in a better position to receive our Savior. We will then be more able to take on a newer tradition – adding something – during Lent, instead of just subtracting. Perhaps volunteering, perhaps working for justice; maybe even just a change in personal attitude or disposition. When I gave up soda for Lent 6 years ago, I realized that my body slowly relaxed. As it was cleansed of all the sugar, I found that I had more energy, improved focus and simply felt better. In short, when I emerged from the wilderness of fasting from soda I was much better equipped to do ministry. When I saw that soda had prevented me from maintaining proper health, and had hindered my ability to minister, I chose to give it up. Not just for 40 days, but forever.

What gets in the way of your own personal relationship with Jesus? What limits you in your ability to share Christ? In this time of careful self-examination and preparation for the Son of God, I challenge you to eliminate the roadblocks in your spiritual life. And when you do so, ask yourself this: "Do I want to purify myself for Jesus for the next 40 days, or do I want to do so for all my life?"



Pastor Mike

February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7-9pm Bi-Polar Support Group	2 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus	3 6:30-9:30 NA 6-9pm Toastmasters	4	5 7-9:30pm AA 7:45-9:30pm Alanon 7:45-9:30pm ACOA	6 9:45am Choir Practice
7 Communion	8 7-9pm Bi-Polar Support Group 6:30-9:30pm Hope for Healing Hearts	9 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus	10 ASH WEDNESDAY 6pm Meal 7pm Service 6:30-9:30 NA No Toastmasters Tonight	11	12 7-9:30pm AA 7:45-9:30pm Alanon 7:45-9:30pm ACOA	13 9:45am Choir Practice
14	15 7-9pm Bi-Polar Support Group	16 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus	17 6-9:30pm NA Chili Cook-off 6:30-9:30 NA 6-9pm Toastmasters	18	19 7-9:30pm AA 7:45-9:30pm Alanon 7:45-9:30pm ACOA	20 9:45am Choir Practice
21	22 7-9pm Bi-Polar Support Group 6:30-9:30pm Hope for Healing Hearts	23 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus	24 6:30-9:30 NA 11:30-Classy Lassies and Grazers Lunch 6-9pm Toastmasters	25	26 7-9:30pm AA 7:45-9:30pm Alanon 7:45-9:30pm ACOA	27 9:45am Choir Practice
28	29					

February 2016 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.

February

Monday, February 1
Morning Pss. 62, 145
Evening Pss. 73, 9
Gen. 19:1–17 (18–23)
24–29
Heb. 11:1–12
John 6:27–40

Tuesday, February 2
Morning Pss. 12, 146
Evening Pss. 36, 7
Gen. 21:1–21
Heb. 11:13–22
John 6:41–51

Wednesday, February 3
Morning: Pss. 96;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 132; 134
Gen. 22:1–18
Heb. 11:23–31
John 6:52–59

Thursday, February 4
Morning: Pss. 116;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 26; 130
Gen. 23:1–20
Heb. 11:32–12:2
John 6:60–71

Friday, February 5
Morning: Pss. 84; 148
Evening: Pss. 25; 40
Gen. 24:1–27
Heb. 12:3–11
John 7:1–13

Saturday, February 6
Morning: Pss. 63; 149
Evening: Pss. 125; 90
Gen. 24:28–38, 49–51
Heb. 12:12–29
John 7:14–36

Sunday, February 7
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 8
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 9
Morning Pss. 42, 146
Evening Pss. 102, 133
Prov. 30:1–4, 24–33
Phil. 3:1–11
John 18:28–38

Wednesday, February 10
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 11
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 12
Morning Pss. 22, 148
Evening Pss. 105, 130
Ezek. 18:1–4, 25–32
Phil. 4:1–9
John 17:9–19

Saturday, February 13
Morning Pss. 43, 149
Evening Pss. 31, 143
Ezek. 39:21–29
Phil. 4:10–20
John 17:20–26

Sunday, February 14
1st Sunday in Lent
Morning Pss. 84, 150
Evening Pss. 42, 32
Dan. 9:3–10
Heb. 2:10–18
John 12:44–50

Monday, February 15
Morning Pss. 119:73–80,
145
Evening Pss. 121, 6
Gen. 37:1–11
1 Cor. 1:1–19
Mark 1:1–13

Tuesday, February 16
Morning Pss. 34, 146
Evening Pss. 25, 91
Gen. 37:12–24
1 Cor. 1:20–31
Mark 1:14–28

Wednesday, February 17
Morning Pss. 5, 147:1–11
Evening Pss. 27, 51
Gen. 37:25–36
1 Cor. 2:1–13
Mark 1:29–45

Thursday, February 18
Morning Pss. 27,
147:12–20
Evening Pss. 126, 102
Gen. 39:1–23
1 Cor. 2:14–3:15
Mark 2:1–12

Friday, February 19
Morning Pss. 22, 148
Evening Pss. 105, 130
Gen. 40:1–23
1 Cor. 3:16–23
Mark 2:13–22

Saturday, February 20
Morning Pss. 43, 149
Evening Pss. 31, 143
Gen. 41:1–13
1 Cor. 4:1–7
Mark 2:23–3:6

Sunday, February 21
2nd Sunday in Lent
Morning Pss. 84, 150
Evening Pss. 42, 32
Gen. 41:14–45
Rom. 6:3–14
John 5:19–24

Monday, February 22
Morning Pss. 119:73–80,
145
Evening Pss. 121, 6
Gen. 41:46–57
1 Cor. 4:8–20 (21)
Mark 3:7–19a

Tuesday, February 23
Morning Pss. 34, 146
Evening Pss. 25, 91
Gen. 42:1–17
1 Cor. 5:1–8
Mark 3:19b–35

Wednesday, February 24
Morning Pss. 5, 147:1–11
Evening Pss. 27, 51
Gen. 42:18–28
1 Cor. 5:9–6:11
Mark 4:1–20

Thursday, February 25
Morning Pss. 27,
147:12–20
Evening Pss. 126, 102
Gen. 42:29–38
1 Cor. 6:12–20
Mark 4:21–34

Friday, February 26
Morning Pss. 22, 148
Evening Pss. 105, 130
Gen. 43:1–15
1 Cor. 7:1–9
Mark 4:35–41

Saturday, February 27
Morning Pss. 43, 149
Evening Pss. 31, 143
Gen. 43:16–34
1 Cor. 7:10–24
Mark 5:1–20

Sunday, February 28
3rd Sunday in Lent
Morning Pss. 84, 150
Evening Pss. 42, 32
Gen. 44:1–17
Rom. 8:1–10
John 5:25–29

Monday, February 29
Morning Pss. 119:73–80,
145
Evening Pss. 121, 6
Gen. 44:18–34
1 Cor. 7:25–31
Mark 5:21–43



Annual Meeting

The annual meeting was held January 24. If you want a copy of the annual report, the office will email one upon request.

Pastor Mike's Ordination

On January 17, Pastor Mike was ordained and installed at Kirk of Our Savior in a beautiful celebration.

“Thank you to all who attended and participated in both the service and reception. I am truly humbled at the generosity and support that my loving congregation has extended to my family and to me!” -Pastor Mike



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- | | |
|----|------------------|
| 3 | Nancy Pride |
| 15 | Brian Shrewsbury |
| 17 | Jeff Fox |
| 24 | Judy Curtis |

NAME TAGS ARE HERE!

We now have name tags available. This is a great way to get to know people better and put names to faces. Or faces to names! You are invited to wear your name tag at all church functions. We hope to soon have a permanent place to store the name tags when they are not in use.

A publication for the family and friends of Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church (USA)

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[Facebook.com/kirkofoursavior](https://www.facebook.com/kirkofoursavior)

**OUR ADOPTED TEACHER-
MS. NEVILLE**

In January, Ms. Neville received the games that were gathered as part of the Giving Tree. She was also given printing supplies, building blocks and hot wheels with a "city" rug.

In February, the Kirk will be contributing 25 books with audio cassette tapes to her class.

There are also plans to help with a class field trip and an end-of-the-year picnic.

**Please join your brothers
and sisters at our Ash
Wednesday Service,
taking place on
February 10 at 7 PM in
the Sanctuary.**

**Immediately preceding
worship, at 6 PM, you
are also invited to attend
a supper of soup and
bread that will be held in
the lounge.**

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Madeline Carpenter, Chairman and Elder

Michelle Shrewsbury, Elder

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Sharon Garcia, Elder

Cindy Handford, Deacon

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Jenny Root, Chairman and Elder

June Jennings, Deacon

MISSION/OUTREACH

Judy Curtis, Chairman and Elder

Bonnie Hilberer, Elder

Lois Hanley, Deacon

FOUNDATION

David Garcia, Chairman and Elder

Leslie Holland, Elder

Nancy Pride, Deacon

Patrick Frobe, Deacon

John Jennings, Deacon

TREASURER: Fred Kirk

New Deacons Not Listed Above:

Audrey Conner

Lorraine Scott

**GAS CARD
MINISTRY**

The Kirk continues to give \$25 gas cards to those in need. There is a limit of 2 per calendar year and recipients must reside in Wayne, Westland, Garden City or Inkster. A record is kept in the office of all who receive the gas cards.





Melda Davidson passed away Friday, January 29. Please keep her family in your prayers.



Now that you have finished reading the newsletter, please take a moment to pray for...

THOSE IN NURSING HOMES/ASSISTED LIVING:

Mary Ann, Cindy Handford's stepmother, passed away January 24. Cindy thanks everyone for their prayers.

OTHERS NEEDING PRAYERS:

Lois Hanley's stepdaughter, Nancy Smuk, passed away in January

Marge Dingman just underwent cataract surgery on both of her eyes. She reports she can see clearly now. She loves and misses everyone at the Kirk.

Willow Creek's preschool teacher, Darlene Taig, has an 11-year old granddaughter with Kleefstra Syndrome



Robert is having surgery for prostate cancer. He has donated the outside lights for the Kirk and has asked for prayers in return.

Leslie Holland requests prayers for Mike Gratz, age 35, who has had cancer for 6 years and just received word that he has only 6 months to live. He has a wife and twin daughters.

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.