

THE KIRK KONNECTION

Editor: Carolyn Marnon

July 2019



This past week I was greatly disturbed in spirit.

Every year an estimated 960 babies in the United States are born with Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome, and 7 months ago Miles Edison Paauw became one of those children who entered this world with only half a heart. Much of his life was spent in the hospital, but in this time Miles grew and developed. He exhibited personality and showed joy, he laughed and he loved, and he won over not just friends and family but also the entire staff who cared for him at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital.

And, on Monday, June 24th, Miles died.

Only a moment has elapsed since you read the words above, but I have been sitting here for two hours attempting to collect myself so that I can write about this. Because it is important that I do so, even as at this very moment I stare at this screen through blurry eyes that are desperate to look away from this experience.

As a pastor and former chaplain one could say that I am a seasoned veteran when it comes to death. I've been in the room when it's happened and with families when their loved ones have died or are on death's doorstep, being present with them in tragedy and in grief. I've witnessed the profound effect that death has on people, especially when it is an unexpected death or the death of a child. There is screaming, there is yelling, there is sobbing, there is heart-wrenching anguish, there is chaos.

And there is Jesus.

On Tuesday, when I was alone and saw the peaceful pictures of Miles in his parents' arms as he breathed his last, I did not immediately find Jesus.

I found rage. I found despair. I found agony. I released every shred of my emotion into the walls of my home, yelling and screaming and wailing. I would have demanded an explanation of God, but so gripped was I by emotion that I didn't even get that far. Instead, I looked beneath the pictures of Miles and found this message from his mother:

"Our precious Miles went to be in the arms of Jesus yesterday. He had the most beautiful death in my arms among the peony garden. We couldn't have asked for anything better. We rest assured that he is playing with his siblings (Emily has also had multiple miscarriages). 'Well done my good and faithful servant.'

There's a peace I've come to know
Though my heart and flesh may fail
There's an anchor for my soul
I can say "It is well"

Jesus has overcome
And the grave is overwhelmed
The victory is won
He is risen from the dead

And I will rise when He calls my name
No more sorrow, no more pain
I will rise on eagles' wings
Before my God fall on my knees
And rise
I will rise"

Chris Tomlin / Jesse Reeves / Louie Giglio / Matt Maher
I Will Rise lyrics © EMI Music Publishing

....and then I found guilt. I found humility. I found admiration in Emily and Tom, who clung to their faith in Christ even in the midst of indescribable loss, even during the raw emotion that threatened to overwhelm all of us as we sat in the midst of a tiny casket and a father who sobbed his way through a tribute to his beloved and precious baby boy on Saturday.

And I found strength. I found power in the words that I have always proclaimed for parishioners, in words that I've offered in hospitals and over coffee or a beer or on the basketball court and anywhere that grief or death is present (read: everywhere): the grave has already been overcome, and those who have gone before us are not experiencing sorrow or pain. They are not experiencing *death*. They *live*, just as Jesus lived and *lives* after his very own earthly death.

As I regained the strength that had temporarily abandoned me, my guilt also melted away when I thought about Jesus' experience when he came face-to-face with the death of his beloved friend Lazarus. In John 11, we read that "When Jesus saw her (Mary) weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.....Jesus began to weep...." Here in Scripture we are provided with a beautiful glimpse of Jesus' human love, the same love that we, too, possess. And in this moment it is revealed that Jesus feels the same way about death and loss as we do: "Death is an enemy, and it can be a fierce one. It is ugly. It destroys relationships. It is to be feared. It is repulsive. There is something odious about death. *Never pretend otherwise.*" (*D.H. Carson*)

And our Lord and our brother felt these things so sharply in his human heart of flesh that he simply was not going to stand for it. He said to Martha, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" Jesus then looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

And out came Lazarus, bandaged from head to toe. That day we saw Jesus weep and grieve and rage against death just as we do, and there we find common ground with our mediator. He knows the depths of sorrow that we experience when infants like Miles are taken away from us, because he has *felt* it. And he felt it with such poignance that he did something to change it forever. He died for our sins so that an earthly death would not mean the end for sinful human beings such as Lazarus or any of the rest of us. When he was raised from the dead, we learned that the loss we experience when our loved ones die is a temporal one; it is of this world. But it is the beginning of a beautiful new experience for those we love, which is why I am so happy that Miles' funeral was not only an opportunity for us to say goodbye to Miles and to support his family. It was also the perfect time to celebrate Miles' salvation and to bear witness to the resurrection. Our grief is never empty; our grief is clothed in the hope and the peace that come from all that He who was fully human and fully God showed us, taught us and sacrificed for us.

Those who are familiar with D.H. Carson will note that I left his quote above incomplete. "Death is an enemy, and it can be a fierce one. It is ugly. It destroys relationships. It is to be feared. It is repulsive. There is something odious about death. *Never pretend otherwise.* ...but death does not have the last word. Thank God for a Savior who could claim, 'I am the resurrection and the life.'"

Death *cannot*, and *will not*, keep Miles quiet. He has simply gained a new audience. Godspeed, little one, and we look forward to the day we join you and our Savior in paradise.

Pastor Mike

Cereal for Summer

The 4th annual Cereal for Summer campaign has come to an end. Members of the Kirk were able to collect 60 boxes of cereal to help feed children during the summer months when they don't have access to the school lunch program.

The Presbytery asks that a portion of the boxes collected stay with the church to distribute within the local community. Since we have a food cupboard at the Kirk, we have placed 10 boxes in our food cupboard.

Thank you to everyone for your support of this annual program.



4	Rebecca Havenstein-Coughlin
10	Carolyn Gates
10	Diane Weigel
19	Betty Hesselgrave
19	Ruth Duvall
28	Lee Milligan-McLane
28	Dorothy Albright
29	Mark Handford
31	Michelle Shrewsbury

Sharon Garcia was installed as Deacon on June 23 to fill a vacancy that became available.



JULY 31 Classy Lassies and Grazers

The next monthly Classy Lassies and Grazers lunch gathering will be on Wednesday, July 31. All are invited to come dine with us. The group meets at 11:30 am in the church lounge before deciding as a group where to go eat. You are responsible for the cost of your own meal.

Financial Report as of 5/31/2019

	May	Year to Date	Budget
Income	8,307	55,386	48,758
Expenses	11,881	53,390	51,085
Net Income or Loss	-3,574	1,996	-2,327
Liquid Assets*	987,018	98,708	

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

The May loss was due to a 3 pay period month as well as a noncash loss on Kirk Mutual Funds of \$1,163. This amount is nearly identical to the gain of April. Capital Funds continue to be used with the continued bathroom remodeling, door repair, and electrical work. We began the payment of 2019 Per Capita this month as well.



Congratulations to Anna Otte!

Anna's Graduation Party

July 13th, 2019 - 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

LIVONIA MASONIC LODGE

27705 West Seven Mile Road, Livonia

• • • rejaotte@gmail.com



Worship will begin at 10am on Sundays beginning July 7. This is our regular summer worship time.

Worship will continue to be held in the Sanctuary.

The Kirk purchased 2 air conditioning units which we will use to maintain cooler temperatures upstairs throughout the summer months.



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

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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July 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.

Year 1

JULY

Monday, July 1

Morning: Pss. 57; 145
Evening: Pss. 85; 47
1 Sam. 10:17–27
Acts 7:44–8:1a
Luke 22:52–62

Tuesday, July 2

Morning: Pss. 54; 146
Evening: Pss. 28; 99
1 Sam. 11:1–15
Acts 8:1b–13
Luke 22:63–71

Wednesday, July 3

Morning: Pss. 65; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 125; 91
1 Sam. 12:1–6 (7–15) 16–25
Acts 8:14–25
Luke 23:1–12

Thursday, July 4

Morning: Pss. 143;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 81; 116
1 Sam. 13:5–18
Acts 8:26–40
Luke 23:13–25

Friday, July 5

Morning: Pss. 88; 148
Evening: Pss. 6; 20
1 Sam. 13:19–14:15
Acts 9:1–9
Luke 23:26–31

Saturday, July 6

Morning: Pss. 122; 149
Evening: Pss. 100; 63
1 Sam. 14:16–30
Acts 9:10–19a
Luke 23:32–43

Sunday, July 7

Morning: Pss. 108; 150
Evening: Pss. 66; 23
1 Sam. 14:36–45
Rom. 5:1–11
Matt. 22:1–14

Monday, July 8

Morning: Pss. 62; 145
Evening: Pss. 73; 9
1 Sam. 15:1–3, 7–23
Acts 9:19b–31
Luke 23:44–56a

Tuesday, July 9

Morning: Pss. 12; 146
Evening: Pss. 36; 7
1 Sam. 15:24–35
Acts 9:32–43
Luke 23:56b–24:11 (12)

Wednesday, July 10

Morning: Pss. 96; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 132; 134
1 Sam. 16:1–13
Acts 10:1–16
Luke 24:13–35

Thursday, July 11

Morning: Pss. 116;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 26; 130
1 Sam. 16:14–17:11
Acts 10:17–33
Luke 24:36–53

Friday, July 12

Morning: Pss. 84; 148
Evening: Pss. 25; 40
1 Sam. 17:17–30
Acts 10:34–48
Mark 1:1–13

Saturday, July 13

Morning: Pss. 63; 149
Evening: Pss. 125; 90
1 Sam. 17:31–49
Acts 11:1–18
Mark 1:14–28

Sunday, July 14

Morning: Pss. 103; 150
Evening: Pss. 117; 139
1 Sam. 17:50–18:4
Rom. 10:4–17
Matt. 23:29–39

Monday, July 15

Morning: Pss. 5; 145
Evening: Pss. 82; 29
1 Sam. 18:5–16 (17–27a)
27b–30
Acts 11:19–30
Mark 1:29–45

Tuesday, July 16

Morning: Pss. 42; 146
Evening: Pss. 102; 133
1 Sam. 19:1–18 (19–24)
Acts 12:1–17
Mark 2:1–12

Wednesday, July 17

Morning: Pss. 89:1–18;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 1; 33
1 Sam. 20:1–23
Acts 12:18–25
Mark 2:13–22

Thursday, July 18

Morning: Pss. 97; 147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 16; 62
1 Sam. 20:24–42
Acts 13:1–12
Mark 2:23–3:6

Friday, July 19

Morning: Pss. 51; 148
Evening: Pss. 142; 65
1 Sam. 21:1–15
Acts 13:13–25
Mark 3:7–19a

Saturday, July 20

Morning: Pss. 104; 149
Evening: Pss. 138; 98
1 Sam. 22:1–23
Acts 13:26–43
Mark 3:19b–35

Sunday, July 21

Morning: Pss. 19; 150
Evening: Pss. 81; 113
1 Sam. 23:7–18
Rom. 11:33–12:2
Matt. 25:14–30

Monday, July 22

Morning: Pss. 135; 145
Evening: Pss. 97; 112
1 Sam. 24:1–22
Acts 13:44–52
Mark 4:1–20

Tuesday, July 23

Morning: Pss. 123; 146
Evening: Pss. 30; 86
1 Sam. 25:1–22
Acts 14:1–18
Mark 4:21–34

Wednesday, July 24

Morning: Pss. 15; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 48; 4
1 Sam. 25:23–44
Acts 14:19–28
Mark 4:35–41

Thursday, July 25

Morning: Pss. 36; 147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 80; 27
1 Sam. 28:3–20
Acts 15:1–11
Mark 5:1–20

Friday, July 26

Morning: Pss. 130; 148
Evening: Pss. 32; 139
1 Sam. 31:1–13
Acts 15:12–21
Mark 5:21–43

Saturday, July 27

Morning: Pss. 56; 149
Evening: Pss. 118; 111
2 Sam. 1:1–16
Acts 15:22–35
Mark 6:1–13

Sunday, July 28

Morning: Pss. 67; 150
Evening: Pss. 46; 93
2 Sam. 1:17–27
Rom. 12:9–21
Matt. 25:31–46

Monday, July 29

Morning: Pss. 57; 145
Evening: Pss. 85; 47
2 Sam. 2:1–11
Acts 15:36–16:5
Mark 6:14–29

Tuesday, July 30

Morning: Pss. 54; 146
Evening: Pss. 28; 99
2 Sam. 3:6–21
Acts 16:6–15
Mark 6:30–46

Wednesday, July 31

Morning: Pss. 65; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 125; 91
2 Sam. 3:22–39
Acts 16:16–24
Mark 6:47–56



Pastor Mike helps load a shipping container in Saline that is headed for Middleburg Care Village in South Africa.



Pastor Mike speaks to the congregation on Pentecost.



July 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group-Lounge	2 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus-Fellowship Hall	3	4 OFFICE CLOSED 7-9pm Harmony Town Board Meeting-Lounge	5 7:45-9:30pm Alanon-Lounge	6 No choir practice
7 9am-Choir Practice-Fellowship Hall 10am-Worship in Sanctuary	8 6:30-8:30pm Hope 4 Healing Hearts-Fellowship Hall 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group-Lounge	9 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus-Fellowship Hall	10	11	12 7:45-9:30pm Alanon-Lounge	13 9:30am-Choir Practice
14 9am-Choir Practice-Fellowship Hall 10am-Worship in Sanctuary Session-Fellowship	15 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group-Lounge	16 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus-Fellowship Hall	17	18	19 No Family Fun Night in July 7:45-9:30pm Alanon-Lounge	20 9:30am-Choir Practice
21 9am-Choir Practice-Fellowship Hall 10am-Worship in Sanctuary	22 6:30-8:30pm Hope 4 Healing Hearts-Fellowship Hall 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group-Lounge	23 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus-Fellowship Hall	24	25	26 7:45-9:30pm Alanon-Lounge	27 9:30am-Choir Practice
28 9am-Choir Practice-Fellowship Hall 10am-Worship in Sanctuary Deacons-Sanctuary	29 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group-Lounge	30 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus-Fellowship Hall	31 11:30 am Classy Lassies and Grazers Lunch			

First Week of August 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7-9pm Harmony Town Board Meeting-	2 7:45-9:30pm Alanon- Lounge	3 4pm-Family Fun Night Corn Roast



Photos from
June's
Family Fun
Night spent
on the
patio.



SUMMER FAMILY FUN NIGHT SCHEDULE

There will not be a Family Fun Night in July.
The Family Fun Night in August will be held
on SATURDAY, August 3. A corn roast is
planned. Please watch the bulletin for more
details as they become available.

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.