

THE KIRK KONNECTION

Editor: Carolyn Marnon

February 2018

Have you ever set out on a trip with guided instructions, only to lose your way?

Noah Santillan has. In the December 2016 edition of Outside Online, David Kushner chronicles Noah's story: the adventure of an American in Iceland who gets far more than he bargains for when, seeking adventure, he books a recreational trip to a country he'd never visited.

Santillan flew into the airport at Keflavik, Iceland, rented a car and was then on his way toward his hotel in Reykjavik. He had turned on the car's GPS and was confident that within 45 minutes he would reach his destination. An hour passed, though, and to his dismay the GPS said that he still had 8 hours to go before he reached his destination. So he reentered the destination address into the GPS, but got the same results. He figured something was wrong but decided that the GPS knew Iceland better than he did and that his best bet was to just follow it.

Eventually, however...there were almost no cars on the road. And those roads got much icier. When the GPS took him along a mountain road with a steep cliff face and his tires skidded dangerously over the ice, Noah finally gave in to the conclusion that he was most certainly not on the right path. Noah was lost.

This is where the story gets truly interesting. Noah winds up in a fishing village and immediately one of the locals understands what happened: his hotel was on "Laugavegur" Road but Expedia had erroneously added an extra "r" to the road name, making it "Laugarvegur," a road which was in another corner of the country. Noah fortunately finds lodging nearby, but the story gets even better. This is so amusing for the locals that they post it all over social media. When Noah wakes up the next morning, he finds that he is the newest celebrity in Iceland. The country is captivated by his story. He eventually makes his way to Reykjavik, and everyone knows who he is. Everyone wants his picture. He is given free food, free drink, free lodging, and makes an abundance of new friends. He wanted adventure and he most certainly – though in a completely unexpected way – found it.

I am not the first - or even the thousandth - pastor to make use of GPS in a sermon or a column. But I, like many others, found Noah's story truly entertaining. Instead of trusting his own God-given gifts of vision and common sense, Noah relied on a GPS device – a machine – to direct him in achieving his goal. And, wonder of wonders, it worked out beautifully for him.

Noah was lucky. Most times, however, we are not so fortunate when we ignore what our hearts are telling us. Similarly, when we suspect that God is directing us one way but instead choose a different path – relying upon the less-reliable roadmap – we wind up in places far away from where God wants us to go. When we think we know the way better than God, we will inevitably wind up straying so far from the path that it may become difficult to find our way back to the road. And the brambles in which we are caught can be painful.

Jesus was fully human and fully God. He knew that he was on the road to the cross, but do you think the human nature of Jesus had the desire to be nailed to a tree? Of course not. Read and internalize the words of Luke 22:42: "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done."

What if Jesus the Son had followed his human GPS and run away from that which God the Father willed for him? It would not only have changed the course of history, but it would have changed the fate of humankind. Without the death and the resurrection, salvation would not be ours.

During this season of Lent which is nearly upon us, remember the road that Jesus walked. Remember the trials that he encountered in the wilderness and how he resisted the devil. Remember how, even when he knew the horrible death that awaited him, he still followed divine GPS in favor of human GPS and marched straight toward his fate while faithfully trusting God.

If you want to honor the savior that sacrificed himself for you, may you rely upon the more accurate GPS available to you. As you walk with Jesus (you are *never* alone!), hold his hand tightly and in prayer listen for what God is saying. When you feel God calling you in a certain direction, go there. Do not allow your human nature GPS to take you down a path that gets in the way of what your God - who loves you and will always know best for you - has in store.

Pastor Mike

"Is Your GPS Scrambling Your Brain?" by David Kushner. Outside (November 15, 2016) Mariah Media Network LLC, OutsideOnline.com

• A S H •
Wednesday



Ash Wednesday

6:00 pm

February 28



Have you gone to lunch with the lunch bunch, otherwise known as the Classy Lassies and Grazers yet? On the last Wednesday of every month, these intrepid eaters gather at 11:30am in the church lobby where they make major life decisions, like where to go to lunch that day.

If you are free on February 28, mark your calendar and join the fun! Ladies go one place; men go to another. All enjoy buying their own lunch and the camaraderie of friends.

One word of warning: February 28 also happens to be Public Sleeping Day. Just make sure you stay awake long enough to eat your lunch.



Don't
Forget
Your

2018 Per Capita

Per Capita

The Presbytery has increased the amount of Per Capita that is due from each member in 2018. Per Capita provides administrative support to the mission of the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. Among other things Per Capita provides office and clerical needs, accounting services for mission, and support to helping congregations find new pastors as well as assist candidates to prepare for the ministry. The Per Capita charge that the Kirk recommends is based on that assessed by the Presbytery. **For 2018 the amount will increase to \$27 a member**, a one dollar increase over the past three years. Please pay this amount at your convenience during the early part of 2018 using the envelope provided in your pledge envelope box or any other envelope that you mark as Per Capita.

Thank you.

CONDOLENCES

Longtime Kirk member Jan Wharrie died on December 27th and was laid to rest in Morris, Illinois after a private memorial service. Please keep Jan's family in your prayers.



3 Nancy Pride
15 Brian Shrewsbury
24 Judy Curtis

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.



February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 Communion Ordination and Installation of Leaders	5 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group	6 6:30-8pm Girl Scouts 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus	7	1 8	2 7:45-9:30pm Alanon	3 9am-Leaders Outreach Project 10am-Leaders Training
11 Transfiguration of the Lord-Communion Baptism-Theodore Beckman	12 6:30-8:30pm Hope for Healing Hearts 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group	13 9am-Noon WCCP 3 Year Valentine Party-Fellowship Hall 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus	14 6pm-Ash Wednesday Service 9am-Noon WCCP 4 Year Valentine Party-Fellowship	15 6pm-Bible Study 7-9pm WCCP Maintenance – Fellowship Hall	16 6pm-Game Night with Meal 7:45-9:30pm Alanon	17
18 Session	19 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group	20 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus	21	22 6pm-Bible Study	23 7:45-9:30pm Alanon	24
25 Deacons	26 6:30-8:30pm Hope for Healing Hearts 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group	27 6:30-8pm Girl Scouts 7-9pm WCCP GMM-Fellowship Hall 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus	28 11:30 am Classy Lassies and Grazers Lunch			



SUNDAY SCHOOL

What's missing? 'U'! We need children 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'.

In February, we will learn about Lent and do activities such as painting and paper crafts to help us learn.

BIBLE STUDY BEGINS!

Beginning Thursday, February 15 at 6pm, Pastor Mike will lead us in a study of Tom Berlin's "Restored: Finding Redemption in Our Mess." The study will be on Thursday nights for 6 weeks through March 22. Books are \$10; see Pastor Mike if you would like him to get you a copy. Pastor Mike has also pledged to provide snacks so that dinnertime hunger pangs don't get in the way of the fun and "full" fillment.

GAME NIGHT

The Third Friday of the Month activities will begin again starting Friday, February 16 at 6pm. A hot meal and games are sure to liven up your spirits and chase the weary winter blues away.
Join us!

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

CLERK: Jenny Root

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February 2018 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

Thursday, February 1

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 2

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

Saturday, February 3

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

Sunday, February 4

5th Sunday after Epiphany
Morning: Pss. 103; 150
Evening: Pss. 117; 139
Gen. 24:50–67
2 Tim. 2:14–21
Mark 10:13–22

Monday, February 5

Morning: Pss. 5; 145
Evening: Pss. 82; 29
Gen. 25:19–34
Heb. 13:1–16
John 7:37–52

Tuesday, February 6

Morning: Pss. 42; 146
Evening: Pss. 102; 133
Gen. 26:1–6, 12–33
Heb. 13:17–25
John 7:53–8:11

Wednesday, February 7

Morning: Pss. 89:1–18;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 1; 33
Gen. 27:1–29
Rom. 12:1–8
John 8:12–20

Thursday, February 8

Morning: Pss. 97; 147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 16; 62
Gen. 27:30–45
Rom. 12:9–21
John 8:21–32

Friday, February 9

Morning: Pss. 51; 148
Evening: Pss. 142; 65
Gen. 27:46–28:4, 10–22
Rom. 13:1–14
John 8:33–47

Saturday, February 10

Morning: Ps. 104; 149
Evening: Ps. 138; 98
Gen. 29:1–20
Rom. 14:1–23
John 8:47–59

Sunday, February 11

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 12

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 13

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

Wednesday, February 14

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 15

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 16

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

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

Sunday, February 18
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 19
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 20
Morning Pss. 34, 146
Evening Pss. 25, 91
Gen. 37:12–24
1 Cor. 1:20–31
Mark 1:14–28

Wednesday, February 21
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 22
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 23
Morning Pss. 22, 148
Evening Pss. 105, 130
Gen. 40:1–23
1 Cor. 3:16–23
Mark 2:13–22

Saturday, February 24
Morning Pss. 43, 149
Evening Pss. 31, 143
Gen. 41:1–13
1 Cor. 4:1–7
Mark 2:23–3:6

Sunday, February 25
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 26
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 27
Morning Pss. 34, 146
Evening Pss. 25, 91
Gen. 42:1–17
1 Cor. 5:1–8
Mark 3:19b–35

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