

THE KIRK KONNECTION

Editor: Carolyn Marnon

December 2018

ADVENT MESSAGE



“The Wheel of Time turns, and Ages come and pass, leaving memories that become legend. Legend fades to myth, and even myth is long forgotten when the Age that gave it birth comes again. In one Age, called the Third Age by some, an Age yet to come, an age long past, a wind rose in the Mountains of Mist. The wind was not the beginning.

There are neither beginnings nor endings to the turning of the Wheel of Time. But it was *a* beginning.”

-Robert Jordan, “The Eye of the World”

I am a fan of the Wheel of Time series, authored by Robert Jordan (and completed by Brandon Sanderson upon the death of Jordan). At the beginning of each installment of the series (Books 1-14), a variation of the above quote would launch the first chapter: “The Wheel of Time turns.....The wind was not the beginning. There are neither beginnings nor endings to the turning of the Wheel of Time. But it was *a* beginning.”

Fans of the series have long debated over whether Jordan’s introductory paragraph is clever, profound, both or neither. Some deem it deep and thought-provoking, while others consider it a reach: a lackluster attempt to sound novel that is actually a simple collection of contradictory words and phrases. While I can understand the view of each camp, I probably fall somewhere into the middle: I don’t think Jordan worked too hard at it but I think he hints at a certain truth: if we view events in black and white we limit ourselves.

We are on the cusp of Advent 2018, the time during the liturgical year in which we wait and prepare for the arrival of Jesus. The birth of Jesus was a beginning for the Jews so long ago, and was and will be a beginning for us: we are looking forward to the return of Christ, who has come and who will come again. We anticipate His coming and prepare for Him by repenting of our sins and acknowledging our need for a Savior. We pray for our hearts and minds to be opened, that He might take residence there.

We know, in our reading of Revelation 22:13, that Jesus is the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. So Christ’s birth was not *the* beginning for Jesus. Jesus, the Son of God, who with the Father and the Spirit form our Trinity, has always existed. Nor was it *the* beginning for *us*, as humanity obviously predated the earthly Jesus by quite awhile.

But, like every individual wind at the beginning of every Wheel of Time book, Jesus’ human birth was *a* beginning. And oh, what a beginning it was.

When Jesus came to us, a hope was born into this world that had not previously been here. A New Hope that would save all of us had arrived. For perspective, think about what Luke Skywalker was to the rebels and then multiply it by a million. 😊 That’s the enormity of Jesus: Immanuel. God with us. (Matthew 1:23)

Is Jesus still that hope for you? Is He still a source of peace and love in your life? Do you look upon His birth and His return with hearts that tremble with longing and eagerness and joy, or was it a “beginning” that happened so long ago that it has lost all significance?

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We view time in a linear fashion, which is an obvious reason that the novelty of Jesus' birth has worn off for so many of us....if not in our heads than in our hearts. The proof is in the pudding: in our words, our deeds, our actions. We do not behave as though we are thankful...relieved...joyful that a Savior has come to us. This "beginning" was so long ago that we have forgotten how to experience it.

The Alpha and Omega is *the Beginning and the End*. The birth of Jesus must be viewed through the lens of the love that God has had for us always: before, now and forevermore. The arrival of Christ on earth marked the beginning to a life in which our sins could be washed clean. Suddenly, literally by the Grace of God, this was possible. The baby boy would save us all. And this happened because the Alpha and Omega loved us so much He came to earth.

As you look forward to Jesus' return, don't allow His birth to ever lose its rightful place in your heart.

Pastor Mike



Dominc Fortuna died Monday, November 26. There will be a brief graveside service in the church's Memorial Garden Sunday, December 9 immediately following worship.



Sunday, Dec. 23	10:30am	4th Sunday in Advent
Monday, Dec. 24	6:00pm	Christmas Eve Worship

There is no Christmas Day worship.



The Giving Tree is being set up in the lounge. There will be tags hanging on it which will each list one of the wishes of a Kivari family member. Contact Judy Curtis if you would like further information.

There will not be a Family Fun Night in December.





Poinsettia Season!

There are special envelopes available in the pews to put your request for a poinsettia and dedication, memory of, or in

honor of a loved one in. Suggested donation for a poinsettia is \$10. Place the envelope in the offering plate. The list will appear in our Christmas Eve bulletin.



The church office will be closed on Tuesday, December 25, Christmas Day.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

As always, we won't have class on the first Sunday of each month, Easter Sunday, or Memorial Day weekend. Classes will run through June 16, 2019.



December 21

Financial Report as of 10/31/2018

	October	Year to Date	Budget
Income	6,517	94,107	98,789
Expenses	8,824	97,601	96,427
Net Income or Loss	-2,307	-3,494	2,362

Liquid Assets*

116,615 116,615

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

October would have been near break even but the Kirk Mutual Funds had a loss of \$2,117 for the month. 2018 has been a poor year for our own mutual funds as well as Thank God For Christian Parents Fund as the losses are near 2%. However, these losses do not impact our cash position. Most other numbers are within budget constraints.



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.

Come to Lunch!

December 26

It's the day after Christmas. Your stomach is full of all that Christmasy goodness. What to do? Come out to lunch with the Grazers or Classy Lassies. Meet at 11:30am on Wednesday, Dec. 26 in the church lounge. Those in attendance will then decide where they want to go have lunch. All are invited. You are welcome to bring a friend.



CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Join us on **Saturday, Dec. 8** for our annual Cantata.

3:00 pm-Dinner

3:30 pm-Music by The ReRunz

4:00 pm- Cantata

Dinner and music will be in the Fellowship Hall. Cantata will be in the Sanctuary.

All are welcome!

Santa's Workshop Show

Harmony Town Chorus will present their 10th Annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 9 at 2:30 pm at the Livonia Public Library Auditorium, 32777 Five Mile Rd, Livonia.

Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$3 for students.

Visit WeSingBarbershop.com or call (734) 743-1764.

Presbytery of Detroit Report

Gifts to the Shared Mission of the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly matter! There is so much going on in the Presbytery this year, and your gifts help it happen!

Recently, the Mission Interpretation Ministry Team held a Month of Mission lunch where participants heard about Campus Ministry and the work of Stu Ross in East Africa, through the Presbyterian Outreach Foundation. Stu works in Thika Presbytery, helping coordinate the well the community is planning to drill. It is exciting to be a part of this partnership, supporting a community in East Africa with our donations towards their new well.

At least seven congregations worked in Detroit with Life Remodeled as a group with a vision revitalizes life in Detroit. The Men's Fellowship also participated, and the Rev. Dr. Allen D. Timm witnessed firsthand the clearing of an alley near Livernois and Elmhurst.

During the summer the youth of the presbytery came together for a Mission Blast. Additionally, there was a day for middle school youth at Howell Nature Center.

Yet to come are training events for clergy and ruling elders, including boundary training workshops for clergy and a stewardship workshop for laity and clergy. Mission continues in the Presbytery through work with children and youth, aged-out foster children, those who have been abused, and the hungry in the community. Through the summer's cereal campaign, many youth were fed. In addition, the Presbytery trains leaders as part of our mission to help the church mission.

The Synod held health fairs in our community and awarded scholarships to racial/ethnic college students. The General Assembly continues to send mission co-workers to place all around the world to stand with mission workers and coordinate what our churches can offer.

December 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.

December

Saturday, December 1
Morning: Pss. 63; 149
Evening: Pss. 125; 90
Zech. 14:12–21
Phil. 2:1–11
Luke 19:41–48

BEGIN YEAR 1

Sunday, December 2
1st Sunday of Advent
Morning: Pss. 24; 150
Evening: Pss. 25; 110
Isa. 1:1–9
2 Peter 3:1–10
Matt. 25:1–13

Monday, December 3
Morning: Pss. 122; 145
Evening: Pss. 40; 67
Isa. 1:10–20
1 Thess. 1:1–10
Luke 20:1–8

Tuesday, December 4
Morning: Pss. 33; 146
Evening: Pss. 85; 94
Isa. 1:21–31
1 Thess. 2:1–12
Luke 20:9–18

Wednesday, December 5
Morning: Pss. 50;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 53; 17
Isa. 2:1–4
1 Thess. 2:13–20
Luke 20:19–26

Thursday, December 6
Morning: Pss. 18:1–20;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 126; 62
Isa. 2:5–22
1 Thess. 3:1–13
Luke 20:27–40

Friday, December 7
Morning: Pss. 102; 148
Evening: Pss. 130; 16
Isa. 3:1–4:1
1 Thess. 4:1–12
Luke 20:41–21:4

Saturday, December 8
Morning: Pss. 90; 149
Evening: Pss. 80; 72
Isa. 4:2–6
1 Thess. 4:13–18
Luke 21:5–19

Sunday, December 9
2nd Sunday of Advent
Morning: Pss. 24; 150
Evening: Pss. 25; 110
Isa. 5:1–7
2 Peter 3:11–18
Luke 7:28–35

Monday, December 10
Morning: Pss. 122; 145
Evening: Pss. 40; 67
Isa. 5:8–17
1 Thess. 5:1–11
Luke 21:20–28

Tuesday, December 11
Morning: Pss. 33; 146
Evening: Pss. 85; 94
Isa. 5:18–25
1 Thess. 5:12–28
Luke 21:29–38

Wednesday, December 12
Morning: Pss. 50;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 53; 17
Isa. 6:1–13
2 Thess. 1:1–12
John 7:53–8:11

Thursday, December 13
Morning: Pss. 18:1–20;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 126; 62
Isa. 7:1–9
2 Thess. 2:1–12
Luke 22:1–13

Friday, December 14
Morning: Pss. 102; 148
Evening: Pss. 130; 16
Isa. 7:10–25
2 Thess. 2:13–3:5
Luke 22:14–30

Saturday, December 15
Morning: Pss. 90; 149
Evening: Pss. 80; 72
Isa. 8:1–15
2 Thess. 3:6–18
Luke 22:31–38

Sunday, December 16
3rd Sunday of Advent
Morning: Pss. 24; 150
Evening: Pss. 25; 110
Isa. 13:1–13
Heb. 12:18–29
John 3:22–30

Monday, December 17
Morning: Pss. 122; 145
Evening: Pss. 40; 67
Isa. 8:16–9:1
2 Peter 1:1–11
Luke 22:39–53

Tuesday, December 18
Morning: Pss. 33; 146
Evening: Pss. 85; 94
Isa. 11:1–9
Eph. 6:10–20
John 3:16–21

Wednesday, December 19
Morning: Pss. 50;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 53; 17
Isa. 11:10–16
Rev. 20:1–10
John 5:30–47

Thursday, December 20
Morning: Pss. 18:1–20;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 126; 62
Isa. 28:9–22
Rev. 20:11–21:8
Luke 1:5–25

Friday, December 21
Morning: Pss. 102; 148
Evening: Pss. 130; 16
Isa. 29:9–24
Rev. 21:9–21
Luke 1:26–38

Saturday, December 22
Morning: Pss. 90; 149
Evening: Pss. 80; 72
Isa. 31:1–9
Rev. 21:22–22:5
Luke 1:39–48a (48b–56)

Sunday, December 23
4th Sunday of Advent
Morning: Pss. 24; 150
Evening: Pss. 25; 110
Isa. 33:17–22
Rev. 22:6–11, 18–20
Luke 1:57–66

Monday, December 24
Nativity of the Lord /
Christmas Eve
Morning: Pss. 122; 145
Evening: Pss. 132; 114
Isa. 35:1–10
Rev. 22:12–17, 21
Luke 1:67–80

Tuesday, December 25
Nativity of the Lord /
Christmas Day
Morning: Pss. 2; 146
Evening: Pss. 98; 96
Zech. 2:10–13
1 John 4:7–16
John 3:31–36

Wednesday, December 26
Morning: Pss. 116;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 119:1–24;
27
2 Chron. 24:17–22
Acts 6:1–7
Acts 7:59–8:8

Thursday, December 27
Morning: Pss. 34;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 19; 121
Prov. 8:22–30
1 John 5:1–12
John 13:20–35

Friday, December 28
Morning: Pss. 2; 148
Evening: Pss. 110; 111
Isa. 49:13–23
Isa. 54:1–13
Matt. 18:1–14

Saturday, December 29
Morning: Pss. 96; 149
Evening: Pss. 132; 97
Isa. 12:1–6
Rev. 1:1–8
John 7:37–52

Sunday, December 30
1st Sunday after
Christmas
Morning: Pss. 93; 150
Evening: Pss. 89:1–18;
39:19–52
Isa. 62:6–7, 10–12
Heb. 2:10–18
Matt. 1:18–25

Monday, December 31
Morning: Pss. 98; 145
Evening: Pss. 45; 96
Isa. 26:1–6
2 Cor. 5:16–6:2
John 8:12–19

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 10:30am-Worship in Sanctuary Communion	3 6:30-8 Girl Scouts- Fellowship 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group-Lounge	4 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus- Fellowship Hall	5 6:30-9:30pm WCCP Family Fun Night- Fellowship/ Classrooms	6 6-9pm WCCP Maintenance 7-9pm Harmony Town Board Meeting-Lounge	7 7:45-9:30pm Alanon-Lounge	8 9:30am-Choir Practice Christmas Cantata: 3pm Dinner/Fellowship Hal 4pm Cantata/Sanctuary 5-9pm-Fellowship Reserved
9 10:30am-Worship in Sanctuary Session-Fellowship	10 6:30-8:30pm Hope 4 Healing Hearts- Fellowship Hall 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group-Lounge	11 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus- Fellowship Hall	12	13	14 7:45-9:30pm Alanon-Lounge	15 9:30am-Choir Practice
16 10:30am-Worship in Sanctuary Deacons-Sanctuary	17 6:30-8 Girl Scouts- Fellowship 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group-Lounge	18 11am-12:30pm WCCP 3-yr Christmas Party- Fellowship/ Classroom 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus- Fellowship Hall	19 11am-12:30pm WCCP 4-yr Christmas Party- Fellowship/ Classroom	20 6-9pm WCCP Maintenance	21 7:45-9:30pm Alanon-Lounge	22 9:30am-Choir Practice 10am-6pm-Fellowship Hall Reserved
23 10:30am-Worship in Sanctuary 1-6pm-Fellowship Hall Reserved	24 Christmas Eve Christmas Eve Worship No BiPolar Meeting No H4HH Meeting	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26 11:30 am Classy Lassies and Grazers Lunch	27	28 7:45-9:30pm Alanon-Lounge	29 9:30am-Choir Practice
30 10:30am-Worship in Sanctuary	31 No Bi-Polar Meeting					



Food Collection

The food cupboard is getting low! The holiday season is fast approaching, and this is typically when folks come by the church for food most regularly. While we certainly accept all food donations, we are attempting to build a more evenly stocked food pantry. In an effort to do so (and to make the shopping easier), we would like to request specific items for each week beginning on Sundays. Thanks for all of your help!!

Here is our schedule:

Dec. 2: Pastas, stuffing mix, packaged potatoes, crackers

Dec. 9: Breakfast items including cereals and juice boxes

Dec. 16: Soups, canned meats (tuna, chicken, salmon), meals in a can (stews, chili) and meal kits

Dec. 23: Healthy snacks

Dec. 30: Canned and packaged fruits and vegetables



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

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

- Madeline Carpenter (2021), Chairman and Elder
- Bonnie Hilberer (2019) Elder
- Irene Gaylord (2020) Deacon

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

- Mark Gallaher (2019) Chairman and Elder
- Cindy Handford (2019) Deacon
- Lynn King (2020) Deacon

CHILDREN & YOUTH

- Dorothy Albright, (2020) Chairman and Elder
- Bill Partaka (2021) Deacon

MISSION/OUTREACH

- Judy Curtis (2021) 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
- 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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