

# THE KIRK KONNECTION

Editor: Carolyn Marnon

January 2017

*I walk along these hillsides in the summer 'neath the sunshine  
I am feathered by the moonlight falling down on me  
Change, change, change*



I don't recall why, but on my way to the office this morning these lyrics to the song *A Murder of One* by the band Counting Crows were reverberating through my head. As the new year is careening toward us, and as I sit down to type out the first Kirk Konnection column of 2017, it strikes me as apropos that this particular message was bouncing around my cranium today.

People have long speculated on the meanings of the deeply personal lyrics of Counting Crows. When asked about their songs, sometimes lead singer Adam Duritz provides answers to these questions and sometimes he doesn't. But does that really matter? Just as many clergy are of the mind that "there are (pick a big number) sermons in every Bible passage," so, too, do I believe that many different meanings can be taken from any particular song. When it comes to extracting personal meaning from a set of lyrics penned by any artist, the intended meaning of that artist is not relevant. The only thing that matters is what you – the hearer – take away from those lyrics. You may or may not be right about what those words mean to the artist that wrote them, but you cannot possibly be wrong about what those lyrics mean to *you* personally.

Given that the line immediately preceding the lyrics listed above is "*you don't want to waste your life*," I do not complicate the meaning of this portion of the song. When I hear these words, sung urgently by Duritz at the conclusion of this track, I hear someone desperately, insistently, pleading for change. Whether it's in himself or someone else is unimportant; what I hear is a visceral appeal for transformation.

With 2017 nearly here, do you feel the need to change? Do you feel comfortable exactly where you are, and as you are? Throughout my own life, there have been moments where I feel comfortable. Happy. At peace. But, eventually, I have found that these feelings lead to atrophy. When those cozy feelings linger, I no longer work for a change in or for myself or my environment, and as a result everyone suffers.

I am not saying that we should not be happy with the "good" character attributes with which we've been blessed, nor am I suggesting that we should not take joy or feel affirmation in the positive events in our lives. But I *am* recommending that we never get so careless as to rest on our laurels. If we do that, we no longer grow. If we do that, we wither. We weaken. And, eventually, we waste away.

Several days ago we Christians lit our candles as we sang *Silent Night* during the Christmas Eve service, celebrating the arrival of the Light of the World. On Sunday we celebrate Epiphany: the revelation of God to the world in the form of Christ. The prevalent image of Epiphany is that of light, as Jesus came to us and was revealed to us in the midst of our darkness.

Epiphany, however, is not just about revelations and lights. It's a reminder to us Christians that we are responsible for *distributing* the light of Christ to everyone else in this world. We are ambassadors of Christ's light. And, if we fail to do our utmost in shining that light, then we are resting on our aforementioned laurels. We are not being the stewards of Christ's light that we have been called to be.

What about you? Are you happy where you're sleeping, or do you sometimes lie awake, listening to a voice off in the distance imploring you to, "*Change, change, change?*"

*Pastor Mike*

## **KROGER COMMUNITY**

### **REWARDS**

The Meijer Community Rewards program which the Kirk participated in for a number of years was ended mid-year by Meijer, and the Kirk has finally been qualified to participate in the Kroger Community Rewards program which will provide the Kirk a small portion of income when member's do regular grocery shopping and get gas. The program is similar to what Meijer did, but Kroger puts no requirements on method of payment used. The essence of the Kroger program is the KrogerPlus card which is their standard card that is scanned at the register in order to obtain sale prices. If you are even a semi-regular shopper at Kroger you probably have one. If you don't have one you can apply at the service desk of your local Kroger store. The next step in the program for all members' KrogerPlus accounts is to register on-line and designate the Kirk as your charity of choice. Not only Kirk members can do this, but your family and friends can do it as well. Below are the instructions for registering. It is not as daunting as it seems, but if you have questions about registering or need assistance see Fred Kirk or Joan Nystrom.

The Kirk has been assigned number 69358.

#### **TO USE THE KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM:**

Register online at [krogercommunityrewards.com](http://krogercommunityrewards.com)

Be sure to have your Kroger Plus card handy and register your card with your organization after you sign up.

Click on Sign In/Register

Most participants are new online customers, so they must click on SIGN UP TODAY in the 'New Customer?' box. Sign up for a Kroger Rewards Account by entering zip code, clicking on favorite store, entering your email address and creating a password, agreeing to the terms and conditions

You will then get a message to check your email inbox and click on the link within the body of the email.

If you already have an online account, for example to receive offers and emails from Kroger, you can just sign in.

Click on My Account and use your email address and password to proceed to the next step.

Click on Edit Kroger Community Rewards information and input your Kroger Plus card number.

Update or confirm your information.

Enter NPO number or name of organization, select organization from list and click on confirm.

**To verify you are enrolled correctly, you will see your organization's name on the right side of your information page and the Kirk's name should appear at the bottom of all your receipts after 48 hours.**

Do you use your phone number at the register? Call 877-576-7587 to get your Kroger Plus card number.

Members must swipe their registered Kroger Plus card or use the phone number that is related to their registered Kroger Plus card when shopping for each purchase to count.

### **2017 PER CAPITA**

Per Capita is the charge that each Presbyterian Church is billed annually to meet various operations at both the local Presbytery and national church levels. At the Kirk and at most other individual local churches, members are encouraged to help reimburse this larger expense. This year (2017) the amount suggested to be donated by the congregation is \$26 per member, an amount unchanged from 2016. Please consider paying this amount in the regular offering sometime in the coming months. If you have a box of giving envelopes there is a dedicated colored envelope for Per Capita payments included, but you can also just mark the payment on any envelope you choose. Thank you.

# January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group	3 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus	4	5	6 7:45-9:30pm Alanon	7
8 <b>Communion Session Meeting</b>	9 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group 6:30-8:30pm Hope for Healing Hearts	10 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus	11	12 7pm-WCCP Maintenance	13 7:45-9:30pm Alanon	14
15 <b>Committee Reports due for inclusion in annual report packet</b>	16 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group	17 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus	18	19	20 9am-Noon WCCP Kitchen/Fellowship Usage 7:45-9:30pm Alanon	21 9am-Noon WCCP Kitchen/Fellowship Usage
22 <b>Annual Meeting with Potluck</b> A-I: Dessert J-R: Main Dish S-Z: Side Dish	23 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group 6:30-8:30pm Hope for Healing Hearts	24 <b>4:00 pm Presbytery Meeting</b> Installation of Moderator & Vice Moderator Dinner Hope Presbyterian Church 15340 Meyers Rd. Detroit, MI 48227 5:30-8:30pm-WCCP Fellowship/Kitchen Usage 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus	25 <b>11:30 Classy Lassies and Grazers Lunch</b>	26	27 7:45-9:30pm Alanon	28 9am-WCCP Maintenance
29	30 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group	31 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus				

# What's Happening?



It was a very casual Christmas morning service with all invited to wear pajamas and enjoy pastries.



Members gathered on Saturday, December 3 to enjoy a spaghetti luncheon, music by The Reruns jazz band and then the Christmas Cantata.

Judy Curtis filled her van with warm coats and boots for the Warm the Children campaign the KIRK does every year for local schoolchildren.



*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.*

## January 2017 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.*

### **Sunday, January 1** **First Sunday after Christmas**

Morning: Pss. 98; 150  
Evening: Pss. 99; 8  
Isa. 62:6–7, 10–12  
Heb. 2:10–18  
Matt. 1:18–25

### **Monday, January 2**

Morning: Pss. 48; 145  
Evening: Pss. 9; 29  
Gen. 12:1–7  
Heb. 11:1–12  
John 6:35–42, 48–51

### **Tuesday, January 3**

Morning: Pss. 111; 146  
Evening: Pss. 107; 15  
Gen. 28:10–22  
Heb. 11:13–22  
John 10:7–17

### **Wednesday, January 4**

Morning: Pss. 20; 147:1–11  
Evening: Pss. 93; 97  
Exod. 3:1–5  
Heb. 11:23–31  
John 14:6–14

### **Thursday, January 5**

Morning: Pss. 99; 147:12–20  
Evening: Pss. 96; 110  
Josh. 1:1–9  
Heb. 11:32–12:2  
John 15:1–16

### **Friday, January 6** **Epiphany of the Lord**

Morning: Pss. 72; 148  
Evening: Pss. 100; 67  
Isa. 52:7–10  
Rev. 21:22–27  
Matt. 12:14–21

### **Saturday, January 7**

Morning: Pss. 46 or 97; 149  
Evening: Pss. 27; 93 or 114  
Isa. 52:3–6  
Rev. 2:1–7  
John 2:1–11

### **Sunday, January 8** **Baptism of the Lord**

Morning: Pss. 104; 150  
Evening: Ps. 29  
Isa. 40:1–11  
Heb. 1:1–12  
John 1:1–7, 19–20, 29–34

### **Monday, January 9**

Morning: Pss. 5; 145  
Evening: Pss. 82; 29  
Isa. 40:12–24  
Eph. 1:1–14  
Mark 1:1–13

### **Tuesday, January 10**

Morning: Pss. 42; 146  
Evening: Pss. 102; 133  
Isa. 40:25–31  
Eph. 1:15–23  
Mark 1:14–28

### **Wednesday, January 11**

Morning: Pss. 89:1–18;  
47:1–11  
Evening: Pss. 1; 33  
Isa. 41:1–16  
Eph. 2:1–10  
Mark 1:29–45

### **Thursday, January 12**

Morning: Pss. 97; 147:12–20  
Evening: Pss. 16; 62  
Isa. 41:17–29  
Eph. 2:11–22  
Mark 2:1–12

### **Friday, January 13**

Morning: Pss. 51; 148  
Evening: Pss. 142; 65  
Isa. 42:(1–9) 10–17  
Eph. 3:1–13  
Mark 2:13–22

### **Saturday, January 14**

Morning: Pss. 104; 149  
Evening: Pss. 138; 98  
Isa. (42:18–25) 43:1–13  
Eph. 3:14–21  
Mark 2:23–3:6

### **Sunday, January 15** **2nd Sunday after Epiphany**

Morning: Pss. 19; 150  
Evening: Pss. 81; 113  
Isa. 43:14–44:5  
Heb. 6:17–7:10  
John 4:27–42

### **Monday, January 16**

Morning: Pss. 135; 145  
Evening: Pss. 97; 112  
Isa. 44:6–8, 21–23  
Eph. 4:1–16  
Mark 3:7–19a

**Tuesday, January 17**

Morning: Pss. 123; 146  
Evening: Pss. 30; 86  
Isa. 44:9–20  
Eph. 4:17–32  
Mark 3:19b–35

**Wednesday, January 18**

Morning: Pss. 15; 147:1–11  
Evening: Pss. 48; 4  
Isa. 44:24–45:7  
Eph. 5:1–14  
Mark 4:1–20

**Thursday, January 19**

Morning: Pss. 36; 147:12–20  
Evening: Pss. 80; 27  
Isa. 45:5–17  
Eph. 5:15–33  
Mark 4:21–34

**Friday, January 20**

Morning: Pss. 130; 148  
Evening: Pss. 32; 139  
Isa. 45:18–25  
Eph. 6:1–9  
Mark 4:35–41

**Saturday, January 21**

Morning: Pss. 56; 149  
Evening: Pss. 118; 111  
Isa. 46:1–13  
Eph. 6:10–24  
Mark 5:1–20

**Sunday, January 22  
3rd Sunday after Epiphany**

Morning: Pss. 67; 150  
Evening: Pss. 46; 93  
Isa. 47:1–15  
Heb. 10:19–31  
John 5:2–18

**Monday, January 23**

Morning: Pss. 57; 145  
Evening: Pss. 85; 47  
Isa. 48:1–11  
Gal. 1:1–17  
Mark 5:21–43

**Tuesday, January 24**

Morning: Pss. 54; 146  
Evening: Pss. 28; 99  
Isa. 48:12–21 (22)  
Gal. 1:18–2:10  
Mark 6:1–13

**Wednesday, January 25**

Morning: Pss. 65; 147:1–11  
Evening: Pss. 125; 91  
Isa. 49:1–12  
Gal. 2:11–21  
Mark 6:13–29

**Thursday, January 26**

Morning: Pss. 143;  
147:12–20  
Evening: Pss. 81; 116  
Isa. 49:13–23 (24–26)  
Gal. 3:1–14  
Mark 6:30–46

**Friday, January 27**

Morning: Pss. 88; 148  
Evening: Pss. 6; 20  
Isa. 50:1–11  
Gal. 3:15–22  
Mark 6:47–56

**Saturday, January 28**

Morning: Pss. 122; 149  
Evening: Pss. 100; 63  
Isa. 51:1–8  
Gal. 3:23–29  
Mark 7:1–23

**Sunday, January 29  
4th Sunday after Epiphany**

Morning: Pss. 108; 150  
Evening: Pss. 66; 23  
Isa. 51:9–16  
Heb. 11:8–16  
John 7:14–31

**Monday, January 30**

Morning: Pss. 62; 145  
Evening: Pss. 73; 9  
Isa. 51:17–23  
Gal. 4:1–11  
Mark 7:24–37

**Tuesday, January 31**

Morning: Pss. 12; 146  
Evening: Pss. 36; 7  
Isa. 52:1–12  
Gal. 4:12–20  
Mark 8:1–10

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Madeline Carpenter, Chairman and Elder

Bonnie Hilberer, Elder

Audrey Conner, Deacon

## FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Sharon Garcia, Chairman and Elder

Cindy Handford, Deacon

## CHILDREN & YOUTH

Jenny Root, Chairman and Elder

June Jennings, Deacon

## MISSION/OUTREACH

Judy Curtis, Chairman and Elder

Michelle Shrewsbury, Elder

Lorraine Scott, Deacon

Lois Hanley, Deacon

## FOUNDATION

Leslie Holland, Chairman and Elder

David Garcia, Elder

Nancy Pride, Deacon

Patrick Frobe, Deacon

John Jennings, Deacon

**TREASURER:** Fred Kirk



## January CELEBRATIONS

3	Joan Nystrom
3	Tom Roe
16	Pat Ross
26	Walter Jennings
27	Jim Troutman
28	Lorraine Scott



## IT'S A LUNCH DATE!

**January 25**

Meet with other church members at 11:30am in the church lounge on the last Wednesday of the month for the monthly lunch date of the Classy Lassies and the Grazers. All are invited to attend and enjoy lunch and fellowship together at a local restaurant.

## IMPORTANT DUE DATE!

Ministry meeting reports are due to the office by Sunday, January 15 to be included in the annual report.

**The Annual Meeting is January 22!**

## 2017 Kirk Directory

Please take a moment to go over the rough draft of the 2017 Church Directory that is in the folder on the table in the lounge. Check to be sure all your information is correct, make any necessary changes, and then place a checkmark or OK next to your name so the office knows you have checked your information. Thank you!

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

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If you have enjoyed learning more about other members of the church, please fill out the questionnaire below, return it to the office with a picture of yourself, and let us learn more about you in an upcoming Konnection!

### Church Member Questionnaire

Name:

Were you named after anyone? If so, who?

City of residence:

I've been a member of the Kirk for \_\_\_\_\_ years.

I started coming to the Kirk because

One thing I love about the Kirk is

I find a lot of joy in

If my life was a book, the title would be

My hobbies and interests are

What is one of your favorite quotes?

What sound do you love?

What is your favorite month/season?

Name 3 things on your "bucket list"

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What story does your family always tell about you?

What was a time when you knew God was working in your life?

In what ways have you tried to serve God, the church and others?

Anything else you would like to add?



### Financial Report as of 11/30/2016

	November	Year to Date	Budget
<b>Income</b>	8,374	101,482	96,749
<b>Expenses</b>	9,383	99,383	98,233
<b>Net Income or Loss</b>	-1,009	2,099	-1,484

**Liquid Assets\*** 96,295 96,295  
 \* equals the total for Kirk checking, savings, and mutual funds.  
 Does not include Thank God 4 Christian Parents Fund.

November had extra expenses including some catch up on Pastor Mike's study allowance funds as well as two DTE bills. December will also be likely a more difficult month due to 3 pay periods. We stood still be ahead of budget for the year but likely closer to breakeven..



Ruth Wakefield, a friend of Colleen Williamson, is recovering from back surgery she had on December 13th.

Anname Backus, Rob Otte's grandmother, is living with dementia. Prayers of patience and fortitude for Rob's mother and uncle who are caring for her.

Pastor Mike's grandparents, Richard and Shirley Mickle. Richard is currently dealing with various health issues.

Our secretary, Carolyn Marnon, who is continuing to deal with shoulder pain.

The family of Nancy Lee Pride's brother-in-law, Frank Schreiber, who recently passed away.

Lynn King requests prayers for a family and their friends going through a difficult time.

Robin Roe is having thyroid-related issues.

June Jennings' sister, Gwen, has inoperable cancer. The family is asking for God's mercy for Gwen and strength for all of the family.

Leslie Holland's friend, Theresa Reed, is starting a new cancer medication for her brain tumor; she can't stand by herself and her balance is off, but she's fighting.

Willow Creek's preschool teacher, Darlene Taig, has a 12-year old granddaughter, Karlie, with Kleefstra Syndrome. Characteristic features of Kleefstra Syndrome include developmental delay and intellectual disability, severely limited or absent speech, and weak muscle tone (hypotonia).

Amy Morris is enduring MS. She is the niece of Leslie Holland and the granddaughter of Lois Hanley.

Jerry Cobleigh's wife, Kay, is enduring IBS.

Chelsea Marra, Pastor Mike's friend who was battling leukemia, passed before Christmas.

