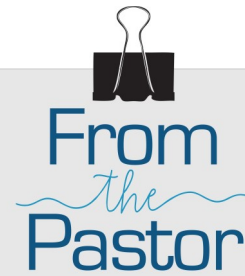


THE KIRK KONNECTION

2025

january

Editor: Carolyn Marnon



Blinky, Pinky, Inky and Clyde.

Many of us are familiar with the 4 original ghosts from the arcade game “Pac-Man” who chase the titular character. Did you know, however, that they all have distinct personalities and patterns?

Blinky always directly targets Pac-Man when in chase mode (this is why he is nicknamed “Shadow”). Pinky usually takes a roundabout path to Pac-Man. She follows his direction, approximately four spaces ahead of wherever Pac-Man is headed, rather than following Pac-Man himself. Inky’s behavior is typically dependent upon Blinky. Depending on where Blinky and Pac-Man are, Inky will try to trap Pac-Man between himself and Blinky or another ghost, moving seemingly at random the farther away from Pac-Man he gets as he waits for an opportunity to pounce. Clyde’s movements are said to be random, but really aren’t: he directly chases Pac-Man like Blinky does, but whenever he gets within eight spaces of Pac-Man he retreats to the lower left quadrant of the maze.

Pac-Man has an objective: his job is to consume all of the pellets in the maze. The aforementioned ghosts are the obstacles he must overcome in order to achieve that goal.

I was thinking last night about how life is kind of like Pac-Man (typical clergy contemplation, I’m sure): we Christians have goals. Our goals as human beings vary from individual to individual, but on a Christian level their focus is ministry and mission: sharing Christ and his love with others in our daily lives. Living as Jesus taught. Unfortunately, we can’t clear the level of this earthly life unencumbered by Blinky, Pinky, Inky and Clyde!

Surely the ghosts of Pac-Man do not pursue us. But sin certainly does, and boy does sin emulate those ghosts! Sin, just like those ghosts, takes myriad paths to reach us: it takes direct paths, roundabout paths, uses other sins or baggage in our lives to its advantage, and bides its time so as to strike when we are most vulnerable. Sin is as versatile in its own objective to bring us down – to prevent us from achieving our goals of ministry and mission – just like Blinky, Inky, Pinky and Clyde are in their effort to take down Pac-Man.

When Pac-Man consumes a power pellet and is at his strongest and can overcome the ghosts, they go into “scatter mode.” Blinky typically occupies the top-right corner of the maze. Pinky goes to the top-left corner. Inky moves to the lower-right corner of the maze, and Clyde goes to the lower left. They wander away until Pac-Man’s strength wears down, and when it does he finds himself surrounded on all sides by those ghosts who renew their effort to devour him. Think you’re doing great? All is balanced, and Jesus is at the center? Sin doesn’t mind. It will just do what those ghosts do: lay in wait on all sides until you’re weak and vulnerable. And then it will come to devour you.

Pac-Man is alone on the journey to his destination. We, by the grace of God, are not.

One of the lectionary passages this Sunday is taken from Isaiah 43:

2When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

5Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; 6I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth - 7everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

In short: we are never alone. God is with us. And God will bring us back from whatever threatens to bring us down.

When I started writing this today, my comparison to Pac-Man's obstacles was sin. But, here in this moment, as I look out at a gray January sky and I consider my brother's life which will be ending in mere days or hours, and the danger of deadly January itself (more deaths happen in January than any other month, and it's by a fair margin), I find myself also comparing Pac-Man's struggle to clear each level to our own struggle as human beings just to endure our suffering in this harsh world. And I went right back to this passage: no matter what fires come, our souls need not be burned. Nor can any spiritual tidal wave prevent us from keeping our heads above water when God is the one holding us up.

The forms that Blinky, Pinky, Inky and Clyde take in our human realm will forever threaten us, and sometimes they will win. But, while our physical bodies are exceedingly vulnerable, our souls have far greater protection. With God present – walking with our savior Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit guiding us every step of the way – we will never even need a power pellet to defeat what this world throws at us. The body may be killed, but the soul shall live on in Paradise.

When it's dark and cold, my friends, take heart. You are not alone, nor shall you ever be. Share what sustains you with others: in word, in deed, in spirit, and we'll clear the level every time.

Pastor Mike

Merry Christmas Enorah, Elsea & Atlas from Kirk of Our Savior!



ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual meeting will be on Sunday, January 26, in the sanctuary following worship!

The format will be similar to the last few years. No meal is provided. There will be a short break between the service and the meeting so everyone has time to use the restroom and retrieve coffee/water/snacks from the lounge (yes: you may bring them into the sanctuary with you if you promise not to spill).



And - again, like last year - Zoom will also be enabled so that everyone who cannot attend in person may attend virtually.

Please do your utmost to attend this important meeting recapping 2024 as we look ahead to 2025!

January 26, 2025

when
my
heart is
OVERWHELMED:
lead me to the
ROCK
that is
HIGHER
THAN I.
Psalm 61:2, KJV





- 3 Joan Nystrom
- 3 Tom Roe
- 16 Pat Ross
- 22 Pastor Mike Beckman
- 27 Jim Troutman
- 28 Lorraine Scott

Kirk of Our Savior Session Members

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Nancy Lee Pride (2026)

MISSION/OUTREACH

Mieke Beckman (2025) Chairman and Elder

June Jennings (2025) Elder

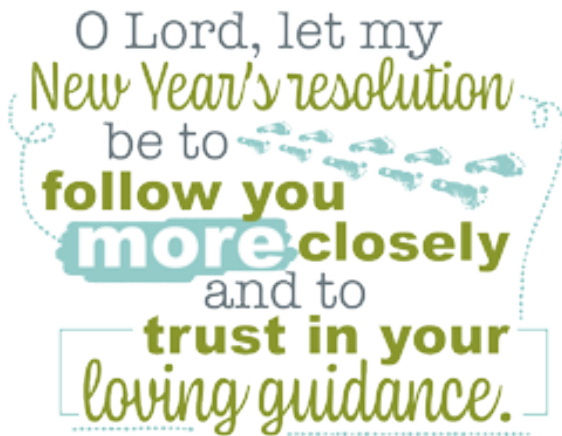
FOUNDATION

Patrick Frobe (2026) Chairman

Bob Cindric (2025)

TREASURER: Fred Kirk

CLERK: June Jennings



Georgeen Kirk

1947-2024

Georgeen Kirk went home to God on Christmas Day; she died very peacefully at the hospital.

There will not be a service at the Kirk; she will be cremated and there may be something in the Spring,

but the family will discuss that later. If the family decides to have a service that is open to the public, we will let you know when we know. Thank you so much for all of your love and prayers for Georgeen, and please keep those

prayers coming for the family as they grieve.



A publication for the family and friends of
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Former Pastor of Kirk of Our Savior

Rev. Ralph G. Fogal



Ralph G. Fogal, age 99, of Lake City, IA died Monday, January 6, 2025 at Accura Health Care Center in Lake City, IA.

Ralph, son of Wesley & Ethel (McKee) Fogal, was born April 22, 1925 in Greenville, PA. He was the youngest of four children, growing up on a 67-acre farm, three miles outside of Greenville, PA. He was confirmed at First Presbyterian Church (1937) and graduated from Greenville High School (1943). He met Lois A. Riethmiller at Thiel College where they graduated in 1950, after which he attended Western Theological Seminary in Pittsburgh (now Pittsburgh Theological Seminary). June 1953 was a busy month: Lois finished teaching June 3, 1953, Ralph was graduated from Seminary June 4, they were married June 5 at First English Lutheran Church in Butler, PA, and he was ordained into the ministry June 19.

Ralph served as pastor of six Presbyterian churches in PA, MI & OH during 35 years of full-time ministry, which included a ten-week pulpit exchange in Hebburn, England (1974). Retiring in 1988, he continued serving as interim pastor, hospice chaplain, Director of Wayne United Ministries, Parish Associate at First Presbyterian in Wooster, OH & airport driver for the College of Wooster. He & his wife spent three months as Volunteers in Mission at Sheldon Jackson College, Sitka, AK before moving to Passavant Lutheran Retirement Center, Zelienople, PA in 2001. There he served as President of the Residents Council, was an active volunteer on campus (in particular, helping with programming for men); he supplied area pulpits, worked at Boylan Funeral Home & made many personal calls and hospice visits; he enjoyed woodworking and he knit over a thousand hats for Caps for Kids.

Following the death of Lois in 2022, his wife of 68 years, he moved to Shady Oaks Care Center (now Accura HealthCare of Lake City), near his daughter and family. He was a kind, generous man, a friend to anyone who felt alone, often saying "ministry never ends when you are committed to serving and caring for others". He was forever grateful to those around him.

Ralph is survived by his daughter Sylvia (Jim) Streufert, son Paul (Brienne) Fogal and five grandchildren: Alayna (Matt) Nederhoed, Karl (Dayna) Streufert, Kelsey Brewer, Erik (Janae) Streufert, Breana Fogal and seven great-grandchildren: Adelynn, Ryland, Maybel & Ensley Nederhoed, Owen, Evelyn & Eloise Streufert, sister-in-law Nancy Riethmiller, two nephews - John (Bonnie) Fogal & Robert (Pat) Fogal and two nieces - Mary Jane (Gene) Ferrell & Ruth (Loren) Peterson. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Lois, two brothers Arthur (Anna) and Lawrence (Jane) Fogal and a sister, Mary Fogal. Lampe &

Powers Funeral Home in Lake City, IA and Boylan Funeral Home in Zelienople, PA are handling arrangements.

A Celebration of Life was held Thursday, January 9 at 1:30p at Accura HealthCare. A memorial service will be held at a later date in Pennsylvania with burial at Unity Cemetery, Greenfield, PA. In lieu of flowers, Suggested gifts in memory of Ralph can be made to: Habitat for Humanity, The Christian Century & Heifer International.

Ministry History of Rev. Ralph G. Fogal

To: Churches Dad served, Thiel College, Pittsburgh Seminary, Muskingum Valley Presbytery
From: Sylvia Streufert, Ralph's daughter
Date: 1/7/2025
Re: Ministry History of Ralph G. Fogal (4/22/1925-1/6/2025)

Rev. Ralph G. Fogal came to **Pisgah (Presbyterian Church, Corsica, PA)** a Seminary graduate and was ordained and installed June 19, 1953. The Youth Budget Plan was successfully started. Rev. Fogal was interested in young people and their activities in the church and community. He grew and developed faster than Pisgah during his nearly four years with us. He resigned April, 1957.

1957 was a busy year for the people of **Lycoming Center (Presbyterian Church, Cogan Station, PA)**. On February 27 there was a congregational meeting to approve a call to the Rev Ralph Fogal. This would be the first full time pastor in many years and there was concern about the ability of the church to bear the financial burden. The story is told of a close vote with one more vote in favor than opposed. There seemed to be some uncertainty because of the close vote and Carl Snyder rose to speak. "This is America," he said "and in America, the majority rules. With this pithy statement the decision was ratified and March 5 Rev Fogal chaired his first Session meeting. A building committee was formed and met initially on May 28, 1957. The General Chairman was Clifford Waltz and the treasurer was Vada Koch. A little over 2 years later the new addition was dedicated on September 27, 1959. It is the building we call Taylor Hall. In 1962 Ralph Fogal resigned to take another position and a PNC was formed to call another pastor.

Kirk of Our Savior (Westland, MI) began as a mission church named the "Nankin Mission of the Garden City Presbyterian Church," and the congregation conducted its first worship service on July 7, 1958. This took place at the Cady School, which was on the corner of Cherry Hill and Wayne Road in Westland, Michigan. The members adopted the name "Kirk of Our Savior" in 1960, to honor Scottish tradition ("Kirk" is Scottish for "church"). On Pentecost Sunday, June 5, 1960, the Kirk was constituted and officially organized by the Presbytery of Detroit.

On March 12, 1961, the congregation purchased eight acres of land at the present location of the Kirk on Cherry Hill Road in Westland, and a successful building fund campaign culminated in a groundbreaking ceremony on July 7, 1963. On December 22, 1963, the Kirk held their first worship service in their new sanctuary.



JOIN US for LUNCH

Join us for our next lunch date on
Wednesday, February 5.

We will meet at 11:45 in the church lounge. Those gathered will choose where to go for lunch. The group will leave at Noon.

If you will be late, you can call the office (734) 728-1088 to find out where the group will be eating and join them there.
All are invited!



Financial Report

Financial Report as of 11/30/2024

	November	Year to Date	Budget
Income	9,632	97,007	91,901
Expenses	6,446	107,580	108,481
Net Income or Loss	3,186	-10,573	-16,580

Liquid Assets* 68,942 68,942

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

November benefited from no pension payment required until early December along with a one-time larger plate offering. November gains on Kirk Mutual Funds added \$1,300 to bottom line as well.

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 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 7-9pm Alanon- Lounge	4
<i>Happy New Year</i> ♪ <i>Happy New Year</i> ♪ <i>Happy New Year</i>						
5 10:30am Worship Communion	6 7:30-9pm BiPolar Depression Support Group	7 6-8pm Girl Scouts- Fellowship Hall	8 11:45am Kirk Lunch Bunch- Meet in Lounge	9	10 7-9pm Alanon- Lounge	11
12 10:30am Worship	13 7:30-9pm BiPolar Depression Support Group	14 6-8pm Girl Scouts- Fellowship Hall	15	16	17 7-9pm Alanon- Lounge	18
19 10:30am Worship	20 7:30-9pm BiPolar Depression Support Group	21 6-8pm Girl Scouts- Fellowship Hall	22	23	24 7-9pm Alanon- Lounge	25
26 10:30am Worship Annual Congregational Meeting	27 7:30-9pm BiPolar Depression Support Group	28 6-8pm Girl Scouts- Fellowship Hall	29	30	31 7-9pm Alanon- Lounge	

January 2025 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 One]

January

Wednesday, January 1

Morning: Pss. 98;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 99; 8
Gen. 17:1–12a, 15–16
Col. 2:6–12
John 16:23b–30

Thursday, January 2

Morning: Pss. 48;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 9; 29
Gen. 12:1–7
Heb. 11:1–12
John 6:35–42, 48–51

Friday, January 3

Morning: Pss. 111; 148
Evening: Pss. 107; 15
Gen. 28:10–22
Heb. 11:13–22
John 10:7–17

Saturday, January 4

Morning: Pss. 20; 149
Evening: Pss. 93; 97
Exod. 3:1–5
Heb. 11:23–31
John 14:6–14

Sunday, January 5

Second Sunday of

Christmas

Morning: Pss. 99; 150
Evening: Pss. 96; 110
Deut. 33:1–5
1 John 2:12–17
John 6:41–47

Monday, January 6

Epiphany of the Lord

Morning: Pss. 72; 145
Evening: Pss. 100; 67
Isa. 52:7–13
Rev. 21:22–27
Matt. 12:14–21

Tuesday, January 7

Morning: Pss. 46 or 97; 146
Evening: Pss. 27; 93; or 114
Isa. 52:3–6
Rev. 2:1–7
John 2:1–11

Wednesday, January 8

Morning: Pss. 46 or 47;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 27; 93; or 114
Isa. 59:15b–21
Rev. 2:8–17
John 4:46–54

Thursday, January 9

Morning: Pss. 46 or 47;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 27; 93; or 114
Isa. 63:1–5
Rev. 2:18–29
John 5:1–15

Friday, January 10

Morning: Pss. 46 or 47; 148
Evening: Pss. 27; 93; or 114
Isa. 65:1–9
Rev. 3:1–6
John 6:1–14

Saturday, January 11

Morning: Pss. 46 or 47; 149
Evening: Pss. 27; 93; or 114
Isa. 65:13–16
Rev. 3:7–13
John 6:15–27

Sunday, January 12

Baptism of the Lord

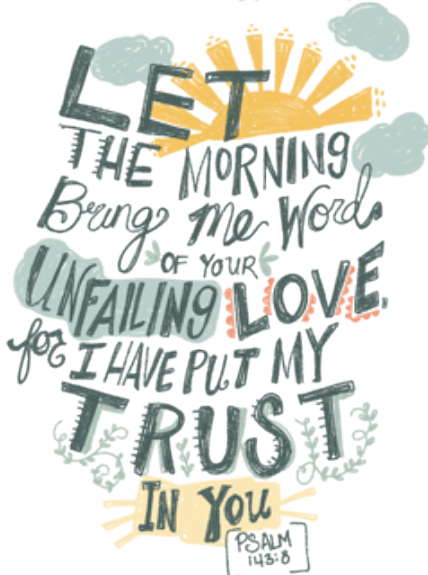
Morning: Pss. 104; 150
Evening: Ps. 29
Isa. 40:1–11
Heb. 1:1–12
John 1:1–7, 19–20, 29–34

Monday, January 13

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

Tuesday, January 14

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



Wednesday, January 15

Morning: Pss. 89:1–18;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 1; 33
Isa. 41:1–16
Eph. 2:1–10
Mark 1:29–45

Thursday, January 16

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

Friday, January 17

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

Saturday, January 18

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 19

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

Monday, January 20

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

Tuesday, January 21

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

Wednesday, January 22

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 23

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

Friday, January 24

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

Saturday, January 25

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

Sunday, January 26

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

Monday, January 27

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

Tuesday, January 28

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

Wednesday, January 29

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

Thursday, January 30

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 31

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

