



# The Shepherd's Voice

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## A MINUTE WITH MIKE

*If My people, who are called by My name will humble themselves and pray,  
And seek My face and turn from their wicked way;  
Then I will hear from heaven, I will forgive their sins and I will heal their land.  
2 Chronicles 14:7*

Post Easter greetings to you and yours!

Praying that this newsletter finds you still basking in the glow of the Easter reality that Christ Jesus lives and rules, that He loves and restores, and that He seeks a closer relationship with us all.

Every year of my life on the first Thursday of May our nation has paused at every level to confess that we are in fact still One Nation Under God and that we need His help, His care, His direction. The nation lifts a collective voice before the throne of God almighty and prays. We ask God for a blessing for all who serve in elected office from the very top to the very smallest municipalities. We ask God's favor that business functions with integrity, and we pray that education teaches the truth. We pray that entertainment would be decent and God-honoring and that medicine would serve ethically. As citizens of this great nation we indeed have many privileges, and we have responsibilities as well. One of those responsibilities is to pray that God would continue to bless us as a people.

Consider attending some of the many National Day of Prayer events held around town this May 4<sup>th</sup>. I'll be attending a number of them and would love to have you join me. And the reason I will gather with other like-minded friends is because I believe God's Word;

**If** My people... **Then** I will...

Pray, my dear friends, that God would deal with us as we deserve and that God will hear, forgive and heal!

Bless you and may God bless America!

*Mike*

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## SESSION NEWS

### Treasurer's Report

\$ 15,768	Cash on Hand as of 3/31/2019
25,000	Certificate of Deposit (Fifth/Third) (less following committed funds)
- 11,000	Building Fund
<u>- 458</u>	Accrued Joyful Noise Offering
\$ 29,310	Uncommitted Funds Available

Notes: Uncommitted funds available as of last month were \$27,768; *\$1,542 less than this month*. It was noted that the previously approved CD has now been obtained from 5/3 bank.

**Pastor** – Pastor Mike offered the following for consideration and discussion:

- Session/Leadership Training – Mike proposes Tom Wilson as the leader/facilitator of our next retreat, which will be on Saturday, May 4 from 9 to Noon. This is open to any other church members who would like to attend; please contact Pastor Mike.
- The Good Friday service will proceed as proposed in the chapel at 4:00 PM. The Maundy Thursday dinner will now be a soup/bread/dessert potluck to be held at Jim's condo clubhouse. Rose Manby and her husband will play for the service.

**Nominating Team** – A discussion took place regarding proposed candidates; no action taken.

**Media** – Jim Miller reports that the previously approved mailing is at the post office for distribution.

**Next Presbytery Meeting** – It was noted that the next meeting will be in October in Cleveland, Ohio.

**Next Session Meeting(s)** – The next Stated Session meeting will be on **Wednesday, May 15**, at 7:00 PM at Pastor Mike's home. The next fellowship and prayer meeting at Mike's will be at 7:00 PM on May 21. Elders were urged to attend.

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## LETTER FROM FIKRE

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I just wanted to let you know my attempt to form an Ethiopian Christians Bible Study group trusting the Lord that later it will be a church in North Kansas City, Missouri.

Since we moved here, we were praying, thinking and talking with the Ethiopian church pastors and elders in Kansas Olathe which is 40 minutes away from our area. Finally, we agreed to start a Bible study program here in Missouri side. Yesterday evening we had a very good meeting with the Ethiopian church elders and some families in Missouri side in North. One of the families gen-

erously allowed us to meet in their house every Saturday 10:00 am-12:00 pm. However, Saturday morning is not suitable for some people, and gradually we will switch to meet on Sunday afternoon. I will let you know the development.

Thank you for your prayer, encouragement, and pastoral sensitivity. Please continue to pray that there are many Ethiopians in the North part of the city, and we want to reach them for His glory. I hope this will be a multi-racial church plant which we have been dreaming of. The Lord be with you!

With our love and prayer,

*Fikre*

## MAY DATES

2<sup>nd</sup> (Thurs.): National Day of Prayer  
3<sup>rd</sup> (Fri.): Men's Breakfast 9:30am at Bob Evans  
(Kalamazoo Ave @ M6)  
4<sup>th</sup> (Sat.): Church-wide Leadership Training at Calvin  
Seminary 9:00am – 12noon  
5<sup>th</sup> (Sun.): Prayer meeting 9:00am, Worship 10:00am;  
Communion Sunday  
9<sup>th</sup> (Thurs.): Bilyea's Home Group meeting 1:00pm  
12<sup>th</sup> (Sun.): Mother's Day - Prayer meeting 9:00am,  
Worship 10:00am  
15<sup>th</sup> (Wed.): Session meeting 7:00pm  
16<sup>th</sup> (Thurs.): Personnel Team meeting 4:00pm  
19<sup>th</sup> (Sun.): Prayer meeting 9:00am, Worship 10:00am  
21<sup>st</sup> (Tues.): Baynai's Home Group meeting 7:00pm  
23<sup>rd</sup> (Thurs.): Bilyea's Home Group meeting 1:00pm  
26<sup>th</sup> (Sun.): Prayer meeting 9:00am, Worship 10:00am

## MAY BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

1	Veyola Kenyi
12	Shirley Stretch
13	Cairns, Charles (Son of Bhama)
20	Katherine Kenyi
20	Al Boerema
21	Kennedy Barrett
25	Henry Gachini (Anniv.)
30	Trinity Gipe

## MAY EVENTS – Sunday Services

5<sup>th</sup> – Samaritas (Terraces) 3:30pm  
12<sup>th</sup> – Samaritas (Lodge) 2:15pm  
19<sup>th</sup> – Vista Springs 2:00pm & 2:45pm  
26<sup>th</sup> – American House 3:00pm

## SERVING THIS MONTH

Children's Message:	Children's Volunteer:
5 <sup>th</sup> – Jared Swanson	Natlina Kenyi
12 <sup>th</sup> – Dana Lehmann	Carrie Barrett
19 <sup>th</sup> – Sandee Keating	Shauna Gipe
26 <sup>th</sup> – Shauna Gipe	Rachel Wahome

### Greeters

5<sup>th</sup> – Roger & Marie Zoerner  
12<sup>th</sup> – Bettye Kay & Joyce VanderLaan  
19<sup>th</sup> – Al Schumacher & Elaine Miller  
26<sup>th</sup> – Marcia Jones & Bhama Cairns

### Liturgists:

5<sup>th</sup> – Jim Miller [Rev. Dr. Laura Smit preaching]  
19<sup>th</sup> – Shauna Gipe

### Serving Communion:

5<sup>th</sup> – Rachel Wahome, Henry Gachini, Jim Miller,  
Rev. Dr. Laura Smit, Rev. Mike Baynai & Rev.  
Dr. Joo

## DON'T FORGET...

- The monthly men's breakfast at Bob Evan's (Kalamazoo Ave & M-6) at 9:30 on Friday, May 3.
- Photos for first Good Shepherd Picture Directory – still need some (See Pastor Mike.)

## WALK FOR LIFE

Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC) is holding its annual Walk for Life on Saturday, June 15, 2019. The walk will begin at 9:00am and covers a little more than one mile. There are two locations to walk: PRC Offices at 415 Cherry St. SE, Grand Rapids. This will be the location Pastor Mike and Donna will walk. Others may choose to walk at the

Paul Henry Trail, 100 E. Main Street, Middleville. For more information to support or walk with Pastor Mike and/or Donna, or to donate directly, please speak with Pastor Mike (616) 822-9988. [RevMcb@hotmail.com](mailto:RevMcb@hotmail.com) .

## WELCOME, MAUREEN

We are thrilled to have Maureen Sweet playing the organ this summer while Arlene spends vacation time at her cottage. Maureen is a gifted musician having played for many of us over the years. When asked how she first came to play the organ, Maureen says, "I began piano lessons when I was in elementary school. Mrs. Kuipers was my teacher. I had an old upright piano, and one day

when I came home from school, my parents surprised me with a brand-new piano! I still have that beloved piano. In my early teens I began organ lessons. Dr. Barker was my teacher at Central Reformed Church. The organ was a magnificent 4 manual pipe organ! Wow! How lucky I am to be able to play the organ in church!”

## **NEWEST MEMBER**

Welcome to our newest member. Wally Leffel has joined the church. Many will remember Wally as a member of John Knox. Wally was born in Springfield, Ohio, and after completing high school there he attended and graduated from Ohio State University. Wally’s area of expertise is in architectural design and drawing. “The guys would work up the plans for these various buildings, and I would make the drawings.” His work eventually brought him and his lovely bride Marti to Grand Rapids. Here they raised their two daughters, Susan and Nanette. Although Wally was raised in the Baptist Church, Marti was a Presbyterian, and it has been in the Presbyterian Church that Wally has fellowshiped and worshiped. Wally also served our country in the U.S. Army, the 83<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division. Before Marti’s death a number of years ago, they loved to play bridge and a number of other card games. Wally has three grandchildren and two great grandchildren. When asked if he liked chocolate, he simply said, “Who doesn’t like chocolate?” We warmly welcome our dear brother in the faith.

## **THE GOSPEL IN 2-MINUTES**

A few of us elders were talking at the last Session meeting about what seems to be some trends in social media, one of which is “short and sweet.” It made us wonder if we were to ask some of you to summarize your faith, i.e. The Gospel in 2-minutes, what would you say? Well here’s my take...

The Bible teaches that God, a personal being, made all that is. Some argue that claim, but there really is no other explanation for origin than God (what some call today Intelligent Design). So, if God made all this, then He surely rules all this, and we should pay strict attention to His purpose and plan. Those plans can be found entirely in the Bible. We call the Bible God’s Word because we believe God spoke through the hearts and minds of dozens of people in compiling this collection of

books, amazingly, without contradiction. (That is itself a miracle.) Many have suggested that God’s plans are dictatorial and heavy-handed, even aggressively restrictive. To the contrary though we find when we read His Word, He is loving and gracious, “slow to anger and abundant in mercy and grace.” He is sacrificial and caring and extremely generous. God in the being of Christ Jesus can do all things and extends His love to all. Our only true response is to submit to His Love, His will, His purpose, understanding that what He has for us is better than what we could choose for ourselves - sort of like parents act on behalf of their little children. And because this is all true, we worship Him. We gather as His people, under the direction of His most loving Spirit, and we sing praises of thanksgiving and joy. God is good! He is the ultimate reality. He has asked us to accept that, believe it, and share it. And I am happy to do so in 2-minutes!

If you would like to write the Gospel in 2-Minutes, please forward your work to Betty Rittersdorf.

## ***GOD’S SPECIAL CREATION***

*The hand that rocks the cradle  
also makes the house a home.  
It is the prayer of the mother  
that keeps the family strong.*

*Mother rises early in the morning  
and bathes her day in prayer.  
She talks to God about her family  
and places them in His care.*

*Mother communicates her love  
In a thousand different ways.  
When there’s a need, she is there,  
whether it is night or day.*

*Mother seasons life with love  
and gives so much of herself.  
God placed in Her the best He had  
and made her unlike anyone else.*

*When challenges come our way  
and when trials block our view,  
Mother kneels down beside her bed  
and prays the family through.*

*Mother is God’s special creation.  
She is a light shining in the dark,*

*Illuminating the path for her family*

*And pointing them toward God.*

*Poem by Lenora McWhorter; Published May 9, 2018 Source: <https://www.familyfriendpoem.com/god's-special-creation>*

## HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO ALL THE MOTHERS

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### A LETTER FROM JOSHUA IYADURAI

Dear Mike,

Thank you for your email; good to hear from you. I do miss the GS family on Sundays.

India is on the process of Election from 11 April for about a month in seven phases for 544 parliament seats. Two phases of election were over for 188 seats on 11 and 18 April. Complaints of manipulation of Electronic Voting Machine were widespread. There was violence in some places. Five more phases to go and we will get the results on 23 May 2019. Please pray that the present govt headed by Modi to be defeated. Indian church is fervently praying for a miracle for a change of government. Please share this concern in our church and pray for India.

Our family and ministry update is given below:

THEOn Digital Breeze

April 2019

We wish you all a Happy Easter! May the risen Lord offer you new beginnings in your life wherever you thought was the end!

The next online course, *Paul's Heart of Theology* based on the books of Galatians, Thessalonians, and Corinthians, will start on 25 April 2019. You would have received the publicity poster for the same. Please pass on the poster to your contacts and encourage them to study the Bible online. You are most welcome to enroll for this course to equip yourself to serve God more effectively. Register today at [www.theon.in](http://www.theon.in)

We have setup a small studio at home to record videos. We are planning to relaunch our YouTube Channel: 'THEOn2014' with Short Video Sermons by Joshua. As we have mentioned earlier, we would like to start creating our own courses; the home studio will be helpful to record the video lectures as well.

Speaking in front of a camera without an audience is an art; pray that Joshua will be able to pick up this art soon. Please pray for the recording of videos, that they will come out with good quality. We are also looking for a good video editor who could give a professional touch to the videos.

We are working on redesigning our website and also on updating the eLearning platform. Pray that it will be a world class website to attract many, to equip themselves with the word of God.

All these tasks require Joshua to give it more time so the book writing project has taken a back seat for now. Julian, our eLearning Coordinator, is busy with social media marketing to increase the enrollment for the upcoming course; he will also facilitate the course as a faculty. Julian will appreciate your prayers.

On the family front, our first daughter, Jedidah is completing her PG Diploma in Journalism; she is busy with her project and will do an internship for a month. Pray that she will successfully complete her course and find a job immediately; she is interested in print media. Jerusha has successfully completed her internship, and she enters the final year of her architecture. Thank you for your prayers, Jemimah got her articleship (practice under an auditor), and she enjoys her work. Commuting by local train to client's office is a challenge for her. Hema's health is better; thank you for your prayers.

Kindly continue to pray for THEOn. If the Lord leads you to support this strategic ministry through finance, you can donate online or bank transfer (as such, only Indian citizens can contribute); the details are available on our website: [www.theon.in](http://www.theon.in)

Please do keep in touch and update us from your side, so that we can pray for you meaningfully. We will be glad to hear from you.

With love and prayers, Joshua and Hema  
Stay in touch! And Easter Blessings!

*Wishing you new beginnings..*



*He has risen!*

MATTHEW 28:6

  
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